

A TALE OF TWO WOMEN

Sir Samuel WAY with Susannah GOODING/White and Catherine 'Kitty' GORDON

Version 2 – June 2019

www.samuelway.info

How to use these notes

- Too much detail?: Read the summary first, to get the essence of what this is all about - rather than getting lost in the details in the body of these notes.
- Research: These notes are not in a narrative style because it is not intended for the general public. This is for serious researchers. There are standardized headings and dot-points which are a framework into which extra discoveries can be placed.
- Sources: The details are from the profiles on the website, also OPRs & censuses (appendix A), as well as from other references quoted throughout these notes. This is mainly from what is available on the internet - we have not yet directly researched original physical records.
- Searching: You can search this PDF document by using Control/F, and then a relevant key word.
- Our other notes: This is one of a series of research notes which are interconnected. These can be found in the STORIES directory on the left of the homepages of the GORDON website www.alexanderandjessiegordon.net and the Way website www.samuelway.info. The notes that are most relevant are:-
 - **'Paternity: The children of Susannah Gooding & Samuel Way'** (010 on Way website)
 - **'The enigmatic relationship between Susannah Gooding and Samuel Way'** (020 on Way website)
 - **'The care of Catherine 'Kitty' by Catherine and Donald Gollan'** (030 Way website)
 - **'Alexander snr Gordon & Jessie, nee Matheson'** – parents of Kitty (1.30 on Gordon website)
 - **'Alexander jnr Gordon & Annie, nee Saltmarsh'** - Alexander was Kitty's brother (2.10 Gordon website)
 - **'Donald Matheson Gordon & Annie, nee McLachlan'** – Donald was Kitty's brother (2.30 on Gordon)
- Author: These notes were compiled by Don Gordon who is a great-grandson of Kitty's brother, Donald
- Feedback: It would be great to hear from anyone, particularly descendants, who are interested in any part of these stories. This draft is not yet complete but is a useful basis for further research. Maybe this raw material will inspire someone to create a more readable narrative – perhaps a fact-novel or scene-play. Your corrections and suggestions will be welcomed - via 'Contact us' on the homepage.

Summary

It was the best of times and the worst of times. For Kitty it was certainly the best of times. But was it the worst of times for Susannah? Here, we have the contrasting tales of two women in the life of Sir Samuel Way.

Samuel James Way migrated from England to South Australia when he was 17 years old. This was in 1853, in the early years of the colony. Within two decades he had become the preeminent citizen. He was the Chief Justice and Supreme Court judge for forty years and Lieutenant-Governor for a total of seven years. He was a Queens Councillor, member of parliament, chancellor of the university and presidents of the children's hospital, public library, museum and art gallery. He was a leader in the Methodist church and the Freemasons. He was a Privy Counsellor. He was knighted and was conferred five honorary doctorates. Right up to the time of his death as an 80 year old, he was still active in all these high offices. Without doubt, for half a century, he was at the pinnacle of most aspects of civic life - law, academia, vice-regal, politics, health, religion and culture. He was the public face of justice, reason, virtue and refinement.

The first love of his life was Susannah Gooding and later, Kitty Gordon.

Susannah Mary Gooding was Samuel's mistress for two decades. She had a disreputable background. Her grandparents and mother were convicts. Her father was gaoled for the manslaughter of her mother. When she met Samuel, she was an unmarried mother with two young children from different fathers. They met around 1865, when she was a 22 year old servant in a small country town in Tasmania whereas Samuel was a 29 year old rising lawyer on holidays. He was well-to-do enough to take a holiday so far from home. They never married, nor ever lived together, and their relationship was not publicly acknowledged. However, they had five children and Samuel continued to visit the family often and supported them for two decades with housing and education expenses, and helped Susannah set up a millinery business. After Susannah's death, he maintained some contact with the surviving children. Three of the children died early but two of their sons, Alfred White and Edward White, became prominent in Melbourne as respected physicians, and were noted for their war service and philanthropy. Alfred was knighted like his father.

Catherine 'Kitty' Gillon Gordon came from Scotland with her parents in 1855 as an infant. Before migrating, her father had been a railway worker and he became a moderately successful farmer in the Strathalbyn district. Kitty was adopted by her aunty, Catherine Gollan. At 18 years of age she married a local doctor, Billy Blue, who became the mayor of Strathalbyn. After 24 years of marriage, Billy died and Kitty soon married Samuel. This was a decade after Susannah had died. As Lady Way, Kitty became prominent in Adelaide society and was appreciated by the general public for her many services to the community. She was with Sir Samuel for 16 years until her death. Crowds lined the streets for what was virtually a state funeral.

Samuel and Kitty had no children but she had four children from her first marriage - two died early and one had a difficult life, however her daughter, Shylie Rymill became prominent, firstly in sport and then in Adelaide society and was honoured as State Commissioner of Girl Guides.

In these notes we have a glimpse of the sort of people they were and how they experienced life. We try to understand why Samuel treated his partners so differently. The secrecy and shame with Susannah, the mother of his five children – at the same time his career was blossoming spectacularly in the final decades of the colony. And how this contrasted with his pride in having Lady Way by his side at the pinnacle of the social life in Adelaide in the first decades of the new nation.

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Samuel's early years

Samuel was born in Portsmouth in Hampshire on 11th April 1836. His parents were Rev James WAY and Jane, nee WILLIS.

His father was a Bible Christian minister in Tenderden, President of the Bible Christian Conference and then Missionary Secretary. He established the Shebbear College in North Devon. Later, in Australia, he established the first Bible Christian Society and was the senior Bible Christian minister in South Australia, serving the Kooringa Circuit for many years. He was appointed General Superintendent of the Australian Church in 1856.

There were six children in the family. Four of the children and the parents migrated to Australia in 1850 and another child was born in Australia. As the oldest son, Samuel stayed back to continue his schooling at Shebbear College. He had started at a private school run by a Unitarian minister in Chatham. Over-all, he had about 5 years of schooling. Despite his modest education, and without any other formal training he eventually was able to become the highest law officer and chancellor of the university – and five doctorates from some of the best universities.

Samuel's achievements

Samuel came out to Australia 2 years after his family – he was almost 17 years old. When he arrived in South Australia, just 16 years after the founding the colony, the population was growing rapidly and there were about 80,000 immigrants in addition to the indigenous population. It must have been a time of great difficulties, possibilities and adventures.

He obtained employment as a junior clerk in a solicitor's office and soon joined another solicitor's office and became articled to Alfred Atkinson. Within eight years of arriving in the colony, at the age of 25 years, Samuel became a barrister, solicitor, attorney and proctor. At the time of his admission to the bar there were only about 30 legal practitioners in South Australia. From then on, his rise in the legal profession was meteoric. He became Principal

(leading partner, owner) of his law firm which soon became the top law firm in Adelaide. He was appointed Queens Council in 1871, ten years after he had become a barrister.

His career as a lawyer, including some of his more noteworthy judgements, are outlined in the Australian Dictionary of Biography and detailed by Hannan. This family history draws attention to aspects of Samuel's career and public life only insofar as it impinged on his family life. For a full account of his civic life it would be best to peruse several books such as Hannan and Emerson, but in summary:-

- Return to England in 1869-70
- Appointed to the Committee of the Adelaide Homeopathic Dispensary in 1871 (ref: Centre of Australian Homeopathic History)
- Member of the Education Board in 1874
- Member of the Council of University of Adelaide 1874
- Elected to the House of Assembly of South Australia 1875 - member for Sturt
- Attorney General 1875
- Appointed Chief Justice 1876
- Helped establish Adelaide Children's Hospital and was President from 1876 to 1915
- Vice-chancellor of Adelaide University 1876
- Chancellor of Adelaide University since 1883
- Freemason: For many years he was Grand Master and Pro Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Freemasons of SA. In London in 1897 he was conferred the rank of Past Grand Warden of the United Grand Lodge of England.
- Lieutenant Governor on about sixty occasions between 1877 and 1883 – for a total of almost seven years. This is longer than any permanent Governor in the entire British Empire had served. (ref: SW).
- In 1890 he made the first of two tours back to England. He was fêted in London and he visited Shebbear College to which he gave the title deeds of the adjacent farm. (ref: Hannan, p3).
- President of the Public Library, Museum and Art Gallery of SA 1893 to 1908 (15 years)
- President of the Blind, Deaf and Dumb Institution
- South Australian Society of Arts
- Empire League
- Royal Society of St George
- Zoological Society.
- Privy Councillor in London in 1897. On his second tour to England, he took his seat on the Privy Council. He heard appeals from India, China, South Africa, Jamaica and New South Wales.
- Judge of the Vice-Admiralty court
- Member of the Executive Council
- Methodist church: He was a staunch member of the Methodist Conference and helped to effect the union in 1900 of the three Methodist sects into the United Methodist Church of Australia and New Zealand
- Pastoralist: At Kadlunga he grazed the improved Shropshire sheep which he had introduced into Australia. (see item 040 in Stories on the left of the homepage)
- Awarded five honorary doctorates: At Oxford 1891, Adelaide 1892, Queens College Kingston Canada 1895, Cambridge University 1897 and Melbourne University in 1901.
- Knighthood : He was to become Baronet Sir Samuel of Montefiore and Kadlunga in 1900.

There are many features named after him:-

- Samuel Way Building of the Women & Children's Hospital in North Adelaide. A ward of the Adelaide Children's Hospital. These first items might be referring to the same structure. Adelaide now has a new children's hospital so his name might no longer be perpetuated by this means.
- Way Hall within the Adelaide Central Mission
- Sir Samuel Way Masonic Lodge in Stirling West (Blackwood).
- The City Courts on Victoria Square, Adelaide are named "Sir Samuel Way Building" in 1983.
- His portrait is in the Supreme Court.
- A statue of Sir Samuel in North Terrace, near the University of Adelaide - unveiled in 1924.
- Samuel Way Drive in Beachport.
- Abandoned townsite of Mount Sir Samuel, Mount Way, and Lake Way in a remote area in Western Australia.

He was described as follows. "There was a touch of vanity about him, and an element of the complacency and self-satisfaction of his era. For all that, Way was by nineteenth-century standards a great man who left an enduring mark on South Australian life. Beatrice Webb had found him a 'grizzled, bearded little man, insignificant in features, voluble

and diffusive in speech, with more authority than dignity in his manner; he neither pleases nor impresses ... At first, he seems a fussy little Methodist ... presently you discover that he is both good and wise. With intimacy one learns to appreciate his wide experience of men and things, his large-minded cultivation and above all his continuous application in advancing what he believes to be right'. (ref: Australian Dictionary of Biography).

He was a prolific writer – in his legal documents as well as his diaries. The State Library of South Australia is holding 35 years of his diaries (some have been transcribed) as part of six metres of his personal papers.

Samuel's properties

- Montefiori: Purchased by Samuel in 1872. It was a two story mansion which was known for its elegant character set within a glorious garden. It has now been converted to a single story Aquinas College in association with the university.
- 'Seaview' – lot 10 Chaffey's Road, McLaren Vale – About 40 kms south of Adelaide. At some stage this was managed by Kitty's brother, Hugh.
- 'Kadlunga' near Mintaro and Clare. – About 110 kms north of Adelaide. The homestead was built in 1857 and Samuel purchased the property in 1881, after the original owner, John Chewings, died in 1879. The photo is as Samuel would have known it in 1901 – source: www.mintaro.sa.au



Montefiori - photograph from "The Australasian" of 17 Dec 1898



Photo courtesy of the State Library of South Australia (B54305)



Archive Photo: Kadlunga Homestead 1901

Susannah's childhood

Susannah's mother, Lydia Hines, at the age of 17 years, was sentenced to serve 14 years in Van Dieman's Land – for forging bank notes. She must have been feisty and got into a lot of strife while she was serving her time. Lydia married near the end of her 14 years. Her husband was Andrew Gooding. His parents, also called Andrew and Lydia, had been first fleet convicts on Norfolk Island. He had stolen 200 lbs of lead and she had stolen 10 yards of printed cotton. After completing their sentences, they successfully farmed on Norfolk Island and eventually settled in Tasmania.

Susannah was born in 1842, the fifth of seven children – all born in Campbelltown, Tasmania. She was one of the youngest of more than 55 grandchildren of the paternal grandparents.

When Susannah was 15 years old, her father killed her mother. Lydia was drunk and had an argument with Andrew. He struck her a blow on the side of the head, she fell and died on the spot through loss of blood. Andrew was convicted of manslaughter but there was some public support for him because Lydia was seen unfavourably compared to Andrew. He was sentenced to 6 month's gaol. We can only guess at the impact all this had on Susannah.

Samuel and Susannah

It is possible that Samuel met Susannah in 1865 when he was holidaying in Tasmania (ref: Hell and Heaven Together). She was 22 years old and Samuel was 29 years. At the time they first got to know each other, she was a servant and he was already principal of his own successful law firm in Adelaide.

If the year 1865 is correct, Susannah had two children, John in 1865 and Lydia in 1867, from other father(s), after Samuel first met Susannah.

James, the first child of Susannah and Samuel, was born in 1869, just 16 months after Lydia.

By the early 1870s Samuel's law firm had become foremost in Adelaide and he was soon to become a Queens Council. He purchased the Montifiore mansion in 1872.

Over the next decade, they had three more children – Frank in 1872, Alfred in 1874 and Florence in 1877. They were conceived on many trips to Hobart at the same time as he was rising spectacularly in the life of Adelaide – as a politician (briefly), vice-chancellor of the university, Chief Justice and Lieutenant Governor.

Little Florence died at 3 years old in early 1880. We do not know the circumstances of her death and we can only guess how this affected Susannah and Samuel. Later that year Samuel assisted the family to move to Melbourne. He was probably finding Tasmania too far for him to see the family as often as he wanted. Melbourne was preferred to Adelaide where it would have been more difficult to hide the relationship from public knowledge and scandal.

Their last child, Edward (Teddy), was born in late 1881. He was born and baptized in Hobart so maybe Susannah was moving back and forwards between Hobart and Melbourne for a few years before she settled more permanently in Melbourne.

While in Melbourne she was living with John White and the boys were known by that surname.

See item 010 for a detailed consideration of paternity. And item 020 explores why Samuel never publicly acknowledged that he was the father, nor that he had an ongoing relationship with Susannah. These two items are in Stories on the left of the home page.

Susannah's death – and her children's stories

Susannah died in 1888, aged 45 years. We do not know the cause of death but we know that Samuel had arranged for her medical attention prior to her death and her death affected him deeply.

[research: Obtain her death certificate to find her cause of death and other details such a spouse.]

Let us consider how she would have seen things develop before she died – and also note what she did not live to see.

John: John was Susannah's first child. He was 23 years old at the time of his mother's death. We know very little about him. His father is unknown. We know that he graduated from Scotch College in Melbourne but we know nothing of his later life.

Lydia: Her father was John Daggs. When Susannah died, Lydia was 21 years old and had had a child in the previous year. Lydia might have still been living at home with her mother, so Susannah would have been thrilled to hold her first grandchild who was named after herself. The father of that child is unknown but his surname might have been White (ref: ??). We know nothing about this unknown White - maybe he was the son of John White with whom Susannah was with and after whom her oldest sons adopted their surnames. (The name White arises in seemingly disconnected ways throughout the whole extended family.) Lydia eventually had 10 children.

James: He was Samuel's first child. He was 19 years old when Susannah died. She would have seen James through his education at good schools, with the financial support of Samuel – firstly (but briefly) at the prestigious Hutchin's School in Hobart and then Carlton College in Melbourne and it is probable that she proudly attended his graduation at Geelong Grammar a year or so before she died. He later attended Roseworthy Agricultural College for a few months

in 1893. Susannah was spared the grief of his premature death when he was 26 years old. It is not known whether he married nor had any children.

Frank: He had attended Carlton College and was one of the senior students at Geelong Grammar, being 16 years old, when his mother died. Little is known what he did after finishing Geelong Grammar except that he was at Roseworthy Agricultural College in 1891 and notably, in that year he played Australian Rules Football for Norwood and was a key player when they won the premiership (Phil Robins). There are no indications that he got married. He died, when he was only 29 years old, at Mrs Madden's Private Hospital, a salubrious establishment in Nicholson Street, Fitzroy, opposite Melbourne's Exhibition Gardens. We do not know whether Samuel was aware that Frank was dying and helped pay for his hospitalization.

Alfred: He was 14 years old when his mother died. He had been dux of Carlton College and was attending Geelong Grammar School – either as a day boy or boarder. Susannah was not to know that later he became a prominent physician, noted for his war service, was a philanthropist and was knighted. For details see page xxxx (the notes following Samuel's death)

Florence : She was just three years old when she died. We do not know how she died. Possibly even up to her own death seven years later, Susannah still felt the loss of this daughter.

Edward : At the time of Susannah's death, Edward was seven years old – her youngest living child. He was attending the junior school at Geelong Grammar as a day boy or boarder. In later years, he followed his older brother into medicine, war service and philanthropy. He married and had two children. For details see page xxxx (the notes following Samuel's death)

John White : Maybe he had begun living with Susannah around 1882 and maybe he was still with her when she died about six years later. Maybe he continued to have a role in the boys' lives. We just do not know.

Samuel : He was 52 years old and it is thought that he was deeply affected by her death. He might have had some kind of breakdown and his capacity to carry a full workload was hampered for some time. After their mother's death, Samuel continued to be in contact with the boys – as they completed their schooling at Geelong Grammar. We do not know Samuel's reaction to the deaths of James in 1895 and Frank in 1902.

Kitty's childhood

Samuel was born in England in 1836. Six years later, Susannah was born in Tasmania in 1842. Eighteen years after Samuel and twelve years after Susannah, Kitty was born in Scotland in 1854.

Kitty was born in Larbert, Stirlingshire and, when just 10 weeks old, she migrated to South Australia with her family - her parents, Jessie and Alexander Gordon, and her two brothers John and Alexander (junior).

They settled in Belvidere, a few kilometres south of Strathalbyn. Her father established a farming property, *Beaufort*, and the family were one of the pioneering families in the area.

In the next six years, two more brothers and her only sister were born, but their mother died in 1866 – twelve years after the migrating to the colony.

At the time of death of their mother, their father's household consisted of two boys older than Kitty (John 15 years old and Alex 14 yrs), Kitty was 12 yrs, and she had two younger brothers and a sister (Donald 10 yrs, Hugh 9 yrs and Margaret 6 yrs).

At some stage Kitty went to live with Catherine and Donald Gollan in Strathalbyn. Catherine was Jessie's sister so she was Kitty's maternal aunt. Donald was a prominent figure with many significant business interests in the district. Donald and Catherine had migrated in 1839, in the first years of the colony of South Australia and Donald pioneered the economic and social life the new town of Strathalbyn. See appendix D for consideration of why and when this occurred.

It might have been an informal arrangement rather than an official adoption (we have not sighted any documents) but she was referred to as Kitty GOLLAN rather than Kitty GORDON.

Whatever the circumstances for this arrangement, it all seemed to have worked out well for Kitty in the long run. It was said that the Gollans were “*well-to do*” (ref: Wakefield p 104) and that “*with them she led a more sophisticated life than in the home of Alexander the deacon*” (ref: Gemmell p 94). For example, she attended Miss Senner’s school, which might have provided a quality of education not readily available to some other children. [research: What was Mrs Senner’s school?] And maybe she was introduced to a social world which, at just 18 years, enabled her to ‘marry well’ to the local doctor, Billy Blue. And this in turn introduced her to high society firstly when Billy became the mayor of Strathalbyn and eventually, with her marriage to Sir Samuel Way, to become a public figure held in esteem in the best of circles in Adelaide.

Billy’s childhood

William Archibald Sinclair Blue was known as Billy Blue. He was born in Poplar in London in 1846. His father was the ship’s surgeon when the family migrated to Australia when Billy was 5 years old. They settled in Strathalbyn where his father became one of the first doctors in the area.

Billy returned to England to train as a doctor at Guys’ Hospital and then came back, as a 25 year old, to become a doctor in Strathalbyn like his father, who had died five years previously. He married Kitty a year after returning from London.

Billy and Kitty’s marriage

Billy and Kitty were married in 1872 when he was 26 years and she was 18 years old

They had four children - Sinclair in 1875, Archibald in 1877, William in 1879 and Shylie in 1882.

Billy became Mayor of Strathalbyn in 1875 - three years after they married and the year their first child was born. Billy served a total of six years as mayor in two separate terms.

It was stated that “*Billy was one of the most distinguished residents of the town. and he and Kitty were largely responsible for the progress of the district. they had much to do with the social life of the place and were the heart and soul of anything they were connected with, and were always ready to promote any movement having for its object the progress of the district*”. (ref: Barrier Miner, 18th May 1914, p 8) Dr Blue and Kitty’s efforts ensured that the Institute was built. Often, Kitty attended medical cases with her husband. (ref: Butler p486)

They lived in Strathalbyn for many years but later moved to seaside Largs Bay for a short time before finally settling in Hahndorf.

The three Blue brothers were students at the Hahndorf Academy and in 1897 Kitty ran a small school at the Hahndorf Institute where she taught her own daughter Shylie as well as several other girls. She also taught music to students from Hahndorf College. (ref: ‘The College of Wattles’ by Reg Butler)

There are hints (where?) that Billy had alcohol issues.

He died in 1896 after a lengthy illness. They had been married for 24 years. On his death, Billy was 51 years and Kitty was 42.

A year or so later, Kitty married Samuel Way

Samuel and Kitty’s marriage

In 1898, ten years after Susannah died, Samuel married Kitty. She was 44 years old and it was Samuel’s 62nd birthday – a difference of 18 years.

Kitty and Samuel had no children but the children from Kittys’ marriage to Billy Blue were, at the time of setting up the new Kitty/Samuel household the children were, Sinclair (22 yrs), Archibald (21 yrs), William (19 yrs) and Shylie (16 yrs). The older boys might have been beginning to establish their own lives outside the home, but it is probable that Shylie,

and maybe William were very much part of the Montifiore household for at least the first few years. Shylie got married herself 8 years after the marriage of her mother and Samuel.

Less than a year after they were married, Samuel was granted a knighthood, and so Kitty became Lady Way.

As Sir Samuel's wife, Kitty was prominent in the social life of Adelaide and she supported many community services. It was said *"She was a person of outstanding ability and concern for others and capably filled the position of wife of two such public figures. She had much grace and sweetness and evident sincerity."* (ref : xxx)

She became generally known as a leader among the large body of philanthropists who have done so much for the sick and the poor of this State (ref: Barrier Miner, 18th May 1914, p 8).

They may have lived at the Governor's House for several short periods. Lady Way's first garden party on the lawns of Government House was enjoyed by many Strathalbyn friends of former days. (Belvidere p 104)

The organizations she supported included:-

- Queen's Home
- Lady Victoria Girl's Club
- Home for Incurables
- YMCA
- Methodist Central Mission.
- Adelaide Children's Hospital
- State Children's Council
- Mothers' Union
- District Trained Nursing Society
- Lady Victoria Buxton Girls' Club
- Girls' Friendly Society
- Ministering Children's League
- Young Women's Christian Association
- Travellers' Aid Society
- The Queen Adelaide Club - president since its inception
- Victoria League
- Alliance Francaise
- Central Methodist Mission
- Actively involved in Christ Church (not Church of Christ)
- Golf and tennis clubs

Kitty and Samuel were together for 16 years before Kitty died in 1914 at the age of 60 years.



Photo from *The Australasian*, 17th Dec 1898 - Monument in North Terrace Adelaide - Photo: Courtesy of Alison Hicks

Kitty's death – and her children's stories

The glowing eulogies for Lady Way demonstrate her standing within the community. The newspaper report of her funeral reads like a state funeral. Some public events, including social occasions and the courts, were cancelled for the funeral. It was a major occasion in Adelaide with thousands lining the streets for a procession. It was attended by all the leading public figures - the Governor, mayor, judges of the Supreme Court, church leaders, academics, health personnel, parliamentarians, charities, at least 6 knights, and of course family members - Blues (Archibald, William and Shylie), Rymills, Downers and Gordons (Maggie and Donald were there but it is not known why Alexander was not mentioned, John may have been ill as he died a few months later and Hugh had already died).

Anyone reading the obituaries and descriptions of the funeral is certain to be impressed by the impact her passing had on the people of Adelaide. - QUOTES

The public adulation was, in part, a reflection of public respect for Sir Samuel, but it must have been substantially due to the qualities which the public saw in Lady Way herself.

Samuel died two years later, at the age of 80 years.

What did Kitty know about the experiences of her children up to the time of her death? And what events did she miss out on after she had died?

Shylie

Shylie was 32 years old at the time of the death of her mother who had lived to see her daughter grow into a vivacious and beautiful debutante and who became a successful golfer. She had been married to Cargie Rymill for eight years. Cargie was the son of a successful business family. They had four children - Henry in 1907, William in 1910, Edward in 1911 and Katherine in 1913.

No doubt Kitty enjoyed seeing Shylie marry so well and delighted in her four grandchildren. But Kitty did not live to see how Shylie developed into Adelaide society and a charity worker with a life which, in many ways, mirrored her own.

She was prominent in the Guide movement and was State Commissioner for 12 years, coinciding with her son Henry being Chief Commissioner of the Boy Scouts. Henry had also married well - into prominent Adelaide families, the Downers and the Riddochs. Shylie died in 1959 at the age of 77 years.

Such was the prominence of the extended families that their lives are chronicled in the Australian Dictionary of Biography - Rymill (Shylie and her son Henry), Riddoch, Downer and Way. There are also entries in Wikipedia.

The Blue boys

By contrast to the brilliance of Shylie's life, fortunately Kitty did not live to see the pain in the lives of every one of the men who were close to her – all in less than two years after her own death. Her eldest son died in South Africa five months after she died. Then her oldest brother (John) died the next month. Her youngest son was killed in action in Egypt 14 months after her death. Samuel died following illness and an amputation only 20 months after Kitty. Her middle son survived Gallipoli but had hospitalizations for mental illness soon after his return and he had a difficult life. None of her three sons married and Shylie was the only one to produce grandchildren.

Sinclair, the eldest, had been in Penola where he was a horseman riding in local events and was involved in sport and he was favourite when he sang for community occasions. His uncle (Kitty's brother, John) was managing a station near there and her other two sons and sister, Maggie, might have also lived in that area for a while. Kitty would have been proud and worried when Sinclair was farewelled to fight in the Boer War at the age of 25 years. He embarked in January 1900 and was in the same contingent as Breaker Morant. After the war, he was the aide-de-camp to Sir Samuel for a while. He returned to South Africa a few times and finally died in Capetown at the age of 39 years.

A few months after Kitty died, her youngest son, William, enlisted soon after the outbreak of WW1. On enlisting he was described as an unmarried wool traveller, 34 years old. He was with the 3rd Light Horse. He sailed in October, around the time that Sinclair and John died. William served in Egypt. Twelve months after leaving Australia he sustained a bullet wound to the face and died of meningitis. He was buried in Egypt at the age of 36 years.

Her middle son, Archibald enlisted in 1916, seven months after Samuel had died and eleven months after William had been killed. Archibald was also in the 3rd Light Horse like his brother before him. He was taller and heavier than his younger brother. On enlistment, he was described as 38 years old, unmarried, farmer. He served in Gallipoli and Egypt. He was a dispatch rider - being a very good horseman. He returned and was a labourer on Witchelina Station. He had some hospitalizations for mental illness soon after returning from the war. Archibald died in 1947 at the age of 70 years. He never married nor had children.

Samuel's death – and his children's stories

Sir Samuel had been unwell in the months prior to Kitty's death and a few months after her funeral he had an arm amputated. He continued in his judicial and civic roles but died in January 1916, twenty months after her. He had an official state funeral which was even grander than Kitty's funeral - "*probably the biggest funeral the state has ever seen*" (ref : Brisbane Courier, 12th Jan 1916, p 8).

His estate was valued for probate at £55,000 (gross). There were thirty-five beneficiaries, the most considerable legacy going to his widowed sister and his library of 15,000 volumes was willed to the university. Way's voluminous, shrewd and candid letter-books are in the Mortlock Library of South Australiana. It is said that his sister burnt his personal diaries.

What were the circumstances of the children of Susannah (who had died 28 years previously) and Samuel at the time of his death and the subsequent years?

Of the five children, three had already died. Florence died 36 years previously, James died 21 years previously and Frank died 14 years prior to Samuel's death.

Alfred: Samuel would have followed his progress through the University of Melbourne where he became a medical doctor and he was a leading physician at the time of his father's death, when Alfred was 41 years old. A year or so after Samuel's death, Alfred signed up for service in WW1 with the Medical Corps in France where he became a major. He served in France. After the war, he continued his prominent medical career. He was a well-known philanthropist, including Rowden White Library at the University of Melbourne. In 1953 he was knighted as Sir Rowden. He never married nor had any children. He died in 1963 at the age of 88 years. He was the last of that generation.

Edward: At the time of Samuel's death, Edward was 34 years old. Like his older brother, he graduated from the University of Melbourne and was a prominent physician in Melbourne but at the time of his father's death, he was overseas on service in the First World War. He was a lieutenant colonel in the medical services in Gallipoli, Sinai and Palestine. He married Gladys Mary NORTHCOTE immediately on returning from the war. He continued as a physician between the wars. He was in the medical services again in the Second World War – as a colonel in Malaya and he was a prisoner of war. Edward and Gladys had two children – James in 1921 and Elizabeth in 1925. So, Samuel died before his first grandchild. James also attended Geelong Grammar but died in WW2. Elizabeth married Howard Albert Leslie 'Tim' MORAN who was also a Geelong Grammar old boy and was a WW2 air veteran. Edward died in 1958 at 76 years. The year before the Moran's had their first child, so, like his father (Samuel), Edward do not see his first grandchild.

How and when did Albert and Edward hear about their father's death? Edward was overseas [research: Where exactly at that time?] and might not have heard of the death until some time later. Someone might have telegraphed Alfred in Melbourne, or he might have read of the death in the papers [research: Check which Melbourne papers and when]. There was only five days between the death and funeral and we do not know whether Alfred rushed from Melbourne to Adelaide for the funeral. Was he present at the funeral service and burial? We do not know whether he was among the crowds looking on as the procession passed, or was he in one of the many carriages of the procession? (Note that newspaper reports published a detailed list of who was in many of the carriages, but no mention of Alfred). What emotions flooded over him as an outsider when his father was so publicly heralded and eulogized without even a mention of his children.

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