

SARAH JANE ANGIOR (1845-1935)

Mother of ten who becomes prominent community leader

Sarah Jane Angior (1845-1935), was a mother of ten who became a prominent community leader in Northcote.

Sarah Jane Homes arrived in Australia on board the *Persian* in December 1852 with her Welsh parents and siblings. She was seven at the time.

Her future husband, Samuel Angior, had arrived in the country around the same time and in the early 1850s he purchased the first chemist shop in Northcote, which was on the corner of High and Separation Streets opposite the Carters Arms Hotel. Samuel would go on to work as a pharmacist in Northcote for half a century.

Sarah married Samuel in 1862 and they had ten children over the following 18 years. In addition to looking after her growing family, Sarah helped her husband in their growing business. Samuel had moved the business to 215 High Street shortly before he married Sarah, and the business flourished.

Samuel was also the registrar of births and deaths for the district. After he resigned this post because of the time pressures associated with his pharmacy business, Sarah was appointed registrar in his place and held this post for many years.

Sarah was also authorised to sign official papers when her husband was on leave and acted as a notary, as chemists often did at the time. Her responsibilities were clearly laid out in notices in local newspapers, which advised people that she had been appointed to the role.



View of High Street, Northcote, Victoria, circa 1900

The Angior family lived in Bastings Street, just around the corner from the chemist shop.

Sarah experienced significant heartache due to the loss of her three children. Her first born, Samuel Thomas, died soon after his birth in 1862 and her last son, William Frederick, only lived for two years. He died at home and was buried at Northcote Cemetery. Her daughter Florence became ill and also died at home aged 26 in 1897.

Sarah was 90 years old when she died in 1935. She had lived through many changes in her profession, as well as in her personal circumstances.

Find out more

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Greenwood, S. *Ready, Prepared: a history of the Pharmacy Guild of Australia 1928-2008*, (2008)

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Jan is a professional historian who has worked across the fields of heritage, education and tourism. She has taught at several universities, including Monash University where she delivered the master of public history course. She is also a former Chair of the Heritage Council of Victoria. Jan was appointed to The Greater Metropolitan Cemeteries Trust in 2010.



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