

Marion Bethia Curdie

1867-1929

Marion partnered with Elizabeth Glover to build Kerami on the Woods Point Road in 1907. Their partnership did not last and when the property became operational she withdrew from the partnership.

Marion Bethia Curdie was born in 1867 to Scottish parents - Frances Neal nee Purvis and Dr Daniel Curdie M D, of 'Tandarook', Camperdown, the property Daniel squatted¹ on when he overlanded from New South Wales with cattle in 1840, via Melbourne. Marion was the eighth of eleven children.

Her father practised medicine as well as ran his property. He was an enterprising pastoralist, who unselfishly devoted time and means to many aspects for the public good. He was part of the intellectual culture of the new colony and this brought him and his family in contact with the influential elite of Melbourne. He was regarded far and wide as the natural protector of the local indigenous clans because of his humane treatment in his dealings with them.

He became very interested in the natural world developing a reputation as a botanist and was in communication with many scientists of the time. He was fascinated by seaweed and identified several along the nearby coast. Daniel Curdie died on 22 February 1884 leaving a younger wife and 10 surviving children. He is remembered with a number of geographic features in Western Victoria bearing the name 'Curdie'.

Mrs Frances Curdie matched her husband in intellectual pursuits and botany, while being a strong woman, she was actively involved in the running of the property. Frances died in 1900 in Kew where she had settled with the children after her husband's death.

Marion Curdie led the life of a wealthy pastoralist's daughter with the opportunity to meet many of Melbourne's influential elite. She was well-educated like her siblings and in 1892 undertook the obligatory 'Tour of the Continent' with her mother and a sister.

She was involved in philanthropy and supported a number of her friends in their endeavours including Elizabeth Glover. In 1907 they built Kerami House, Marysville. Things did not work out and a year later Marion Curdie withdrew from the partnership forcing an auction of the property in December 1908

Leader, 5 December, 1908

WEDNESDAY 16th DECEMBER

At 12 o'clock.

At the Rooms, 375 COLLINS STREET
UNRESERVED REALISATION SALE
TO CLOSE PARTNERSHIP ACCOUNTS.

BAILLIEU PATTERSON and SONS PTY. LTD.
have received instructions from Miss Glover
and Miss M. Curdie to sell by auction, as
above, as a going concern, including the
furniture and effects,

That charming mountain home, known as
"KERAMI",
MARYSVILLE

with every up to date appointment.

The land comprises an area of 10¹/₄ acres, on
the Steavenson River, and quite close to the
falls, and is beautifully laid out in gardens and

shrubberies. The residence, which has been
erected within the last 12 months, under the
best architectural direction, is W.B., with iron
roof, fibrocement linings, and contains 10
LARGE and SPACIOUS ROOMS, kitchen,
scullery, 2 bathrooms, and detached man's
room.

To anyone on the lookout for a perfect home
in the mountains, this sale affords an
opportunity of securing a place ready to go
into at once without the trouble of sending
the furnishings up there. With the home the
whole of the FURNITURE and EFFECTS, which
are quite new, will be included.

Terms: One-fourth cash, balance one month.

Title: certificate.

Solicitor: V. Wischer, 443 Chancery lane. . . .

Alexandra & Yea Standard 8 Jan 1909

Owing to dissolution of partnership, the fine property known as "Kerami" was sold by auction in Melbourne recently, and bought by Miss Glover, one of the partners. Much satisfaction is expressed by the residents that this lady is still remaining with us, as since taking up her abode she has greatly assisted the advancement of the district.

Marion Curdie never married and died in 1929. She is buried in Camperdown Cemetery with her family members.

Camperdown Chronicle, 9 March 1929

OBITUARY. MISS MARION CURDIE.

Keen regret was expressed at the death of Miss Marion Curdie, the youngest daughter of the late Dr Curdie, of Tandarook, near Cobden, which took place at Park Place, South Yarra, on Wednesday last. The late Miss Curdie resided in the district til about 20 years ago, up to which time she was connected to various institutions and was well-known for her philanthropic work. Latterly the deceased, who lived in Melbourne, was not in the best of health.

The deepest sympathy will be felt for her brothers and sisters who are Mrs A J Black (Mt Noorat), Mrs Tangye, Misses Frances Curdie and Jessie Curdie.

The burial, which was privately conducted, took place at the Camperdown Cemetery on Thursday.

When she died she had almost £5,000 in personal property.

The Australasian, 16 March 1929

Miss Marion B. Curdie of Park terrace, South Yarra (V.), who died somewhat suddenly in her sleep on March 6, was youngest of the five daughters of Dr David² Curdie, one of the very earliest of Victoria's pioneers. With his cousin, Daniel Mackinnon, Dr. Curdie came to Australia from the Isle of Arran, Scotland, in 1839. Landing at Sydney, they purchased cattle, and drove their mob overland to Melbourne, camping temporarily on vacant land, which a few years later became the site of the Botanic Gardens. Mr. MacKinnon

settled at Marida Yallock (Terang), and Dr Curdie at the adjoining Tandarook (Camperdown), which was sold and subdivided in the late 1890s after the death of Dr Curdie Till lately Miss Marion Curdie lead an active life, mainly doing acts of kindness for other people. She seemed to be steadily recovering from a recent illness when her death occurred unexpectedly. The surviving sisters are Mrs. Tangye, Miss Frances Curdie, Miss Jessie Curdie, and Mrs. Ian Black of Mount Noorat.

ENDNOTES

¹ As land ownership requirements change, Daniel acquired ownership of this land.

² Should be Dr Daniel Curdie.