AYERS HOUSE MUSEUM

THE FAMILY

SIR HENRY AND LADY ANNE AYERS

Henry Ayers was born in Portsea, England, on 1st May 1821, the son of shipwright William Ayers and his wife Elizabeth (née Breaks).

His wife, Anne (née Potts) Ayers was the daughter of Lawrence Potts, a retired linen draper. Her stepmother, Elizabeth Lockett was the primary breadwinner working as a milliner and dressmaker.

Anne's brother, Frank Potts, had at 14 sailed on the HMS *Challenger*, witnessing the raising of the Union flag inaugurating the colony of Western Australia. G 67/54/6

THEIR WEDDING

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On 14 June 1840 Henry Ayers married Anne Potts at St Mary's Alverstoke Church in Southamptonshire, England.



FAIRFIELD 1840

A number (possibly most) of the passengers came out to South Australia on the new "Wakefield" plan of free settlement departing from London via Plymouth with Captain James Lee and passengers,

HAYWOOD, Thomas - Surgeon-Superintendent

BAINSFORD, Mr - cabin BARNETT, Mr - cabin BATTIE, MR (left behind at Plymouth) - cabin BURTON, Mr (left at the Cape) - cabin COKE, Mr and Mrs - cabin ROBINSON, Mr - cabin

They arrived Port Adelaide on 14-12-1840 (5 births and 35 deaths)

AYERS Henry, Anne nee POTTS

AYLES Josenh Elizabeth nee LANSLEV (Elizabeth)

BAKER WI BAKER ch BALDOCK BALDOCK

NEW BEGINNINGS

The couple, gaining passage on account of Henry's feigned carpentry skills, set sail aboard the *Fairfield* on 15 July 1840. There were 180 other passengers on board.

Upon reaching Port Adelaide on the 14th of December 1840, Henry wasted no time pretending to be a carpenter. Instead, he gained employment as a law clerk in the office of (Sir) James Fisher working there until 1845.





THE FORTUNE

Sir Henry Ayers made his wealth from the Burra Burra Copper Mine, which was also known as the "Monster Mine".

In 1845, he was appointed secretary of the South Australian Mining Association. Its copper mines at Burra Burra yielded fifteen dividends of 200 percent each in the next five years.

Ayers had bought forty-five of the original £5 shares, and by 1850 controlled sufficient votes of absentee shareholders to be elected managing director of the association.

AYERS' LEGACY

Apart from his mining interests, Ayers held important directorates and was for many years a member and chairman of the board of trustees of the Savings Bank of South Australia.

He was the first Chairman of the South Australian Gas Company, a Governor of the Adelaide Botanic Gardens, President of the South Australian Old Colonists' Association, and was for many years on the council of the University of Adelaide.

He was in parliament for an unbroken term of 37 years and was the premier of South Australia seven times.

Ayers Rock (Uluru), in Central Australia, was officially gazetted after him.

THE FAMILY

F. Gordon Ayers. Amy J. Ayers. Sir Henry Ayers. Julian Ayers.
Edith Lungley. 2nd Mrs. Lungley. Ada Ayers. Katherine Lungley.
Mary Ayers. Evelyn Ayers. Mrs. Arthur E. Ayers. Marian Ayers.
Beatrice Lungley. Evelyn Ayers. Florence Ayers. Nora Lungley.
Dorothy Lungley. Lucy Ayers. Mabel Ayers. John Morphett
Ayers.
Kathleen Ayers. Henry E. Ayers. Sidney Hurtle Ayers.



SLSA: PRG 67/54/50

THE CHILDREN

Margaret Elizabeth (née Ayers) Lungley (27 November 1848 – 19 September 1887)

> Frank Richman Ayers (10 March 1842 – 23 April 1906)

Arthur Ernest Ayers (not pictured) (17 November 1852 – 2 April 1921)





THE CHILDREN

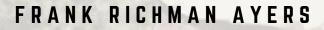
Harry Lockett Ayers (27 April 1844 - 28 April 1905)

Lucy Josephine (née Ayers) Bagot (15 December 1856 - 11 May 1945)

Frederick "Fred" Ayers (4 March 1847 - 18 February 1897)

SLSA: PRG 67/54/46

SLSA: PRG 331/30/3/



The first Ayers' heir (*right*) was named after Sir Henry's brother-in-law, and Richman, who had provided Ayers with employment during a difficult financial period.

Once Frank completed his studies at St Peter's College, he was articled to the firm of Fenn and Bruce. Following that he was sent to London by his father to complete his legal studies.

He worked at the well-known legal firm, Ayers, Ayers, & Gails. He never married.

HARRY LOCKETT AYERS

For many years Harry was associated with his brother, Arthur, as senior partner in the financial firm of H. L. & A. E. Ayers, who were the representatives of several English capitalists and a number of old colonists residing in England.

He was one of the trustees of the old South Australian Mining Association, the proprietors of the Burra Burra mine.

He never took any active interest in politics.

HARRY LOCKETT AND ADA (NÉE MORPHETT) AYERS

They were married on the 1st of October 1866 and had 11 children together, of whom 6 died tragically young.



ADA'S COMMISSION

The Angel of Faith and River of Life windows were designed and produced by the Tiffany Studios in New York City in 1909.

The windows were commissioned by Ada Ayers as a memorial to her late husband, Harry Lockett Ayers, and six of their eleven children.

The windows were installed in St Paul's Church on Pulteney Street on 12 December 1909.

When the church was decommissioned in the 1980s, the windows were moved
several times to locations across the city.
For 15 years they were located in Pulteney
Grammar School's Chapel.
In 2001, they were donated to the Art
Gallery of South Australia.



FREDERICK "FRED" AYERS

Frederick Ayers was the third son of Sir Henry Ayers. He was educated at St. Peter's College in Adelaide and at Cambridge University, U.K., where he completed a B.A. degree and graduated with a Master of Arts in 1875.

Before returning to South Australia, he married Evelyn Cameron Page, with whom he had 6 children.

Along with his brother, Frank, Frederick was a partner in the well-known legal firm, Ayers, Ayers, & Gail. He was also the Dean of the Faculty of Law at the University of Adelaide.





EVELYN AND THE CHILDREN

Gordon and Julian Ayers Evelyn Cameron Ayers (née Page) Gordon, Evelyn and Julian Ayers





MARGARET ELIZABETH (NÉE AYERS) LUNGLEY

As a child, Margaret was said to be extremely wellbehaved and the apple of her father's eye. She was also an avid piano player.

During a visit to England to visit her brother, Frank, she met the Princess of Wales.

Margaret married Arthur Robert Lungley on 29th April 1875 at St. Paul's Church in Adelaide. They had 5 daughters together. Edith, Katie and Bee Lungley are pictured above.

LUCY JOSEPHINE (NÉE AYERS) BAGOT

Lucy married John Bagot J.P. on 24 September 1878. For a long period John was the director of Bagot, Shakes, & Lewis, Limited, Broken Hill Pty., the National Bank, the South Australian Brewing Company, the Alliance Assurance Company, and the South Australian Mining Association.

Together they had two children, Charles and Walter Hervey.

SLSA: PRG 67/54/14

SLSA: PRG 331/10/26

ARTHUR ERNEST AYERS

Arthur Ernest Ayers married Barbara Agnes Milne on 30 April 1878. Barbara was a daughter of William Milne MP.

Along with his brother, Harry, Arthur was a senior partner in the financial firm of H. L. & A. E. Ayers.

In 1919, Ellen Milne Bundey Mus.Bac., a graduate of the University of Adelaide (1868-1919) found the Ernest Ayers Scholarship, in memory of Arthur Ernest Ayers and his wife Barbara Angus Ayers. The scholarship at the University of Adelaide encourages original research botany and forestry.

ARBARA ERLSTOIN

BORN 2ND SEPT 1894.

DIED HTS JULY 1897.

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ARBARA ACNES.

DIED 29TH FEBRUAR

PEACE PERFECT PEACE.

ARTHUR ERNEST AYERS.

WHO DIED ON THE 200 APRIL 1921. HE GIVETH NIS DELOVED SLEEP.

on Day, Glenelg, South Australia

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SUMMERS AT GLENELG

From New Year's Day, 1875, the Ayers spent summers at their beachfront property, Seafield Tower (far right).

SEAFIELD TOWER

The residence *(right)* on the Glenelg Esplanade was designed as two selfcontained, 15 room summer residences for Sir Henry Ayers and Sir Thomas Elder, when both were in their late fifties.

The Ayers family inhabited the northern side and Sir Thomas Elder the southern. Each residence had a separate staircase to the tower, but the landing was communal.

The central tower commemorated a landmark on the Fifeshire coast, which was dear to Thomas Elder.

THE STORY CONTINUES

At the death of Sir Henry a friend told the Legislative Council that Ayers saw life as a battle; he had fought well and 'the world gave him much that his heart desired'.

Whilst his fight may have ended, his struggle for wealth and political leadership, his unbounded faith in the colony's future, and memories of his family continue to live on in this house museum.