

Florence Emma Gray

Family legend has it that Florence was actually the base born daughter of one of the aristocracy. Although he did not publicly acknowledge her, she was placed for adoption with Walter Gray (a solicitor) and his wife, and an allowance was paid to them for her upkeep. This allowance continued to be paid to her after her marriage to Samuel Kerridge and continued until her death. Contact with her adoptive family has been lost.

Florence was a good friend of Samuel's first wife who, when she knew she was dying, asked Florence to promise to look after her four children. After Florence (Nunn's) death she took the job of housekeeper for Samuel in order to keep this promise. She later promised to marry Samuel on the condition that he did not leave England. However history has it that he reneged on this promise, and six months later they were married and on their way to Australia.

Many years later, his daughter-in-law, Molly Kerridge, asked if he had married to gain a mother for his children. He asked 'What else was I to do?' , but when Florence passed away he wrote to his sisters saying "I must admit I miss her more than my first wife. She had such a happy disposition, and was very good with the accounts."

Although Samuel later made a visit back to England for a family celebrations Florence never returned to England.