
SIR DAVID JOHN GORDON and family

PRG 520
Series List

David John Gordon was born on 4 May 1865⁽¹⁾ at Riverton in South Australia's mid North where his Scottish parents had settled on the land.

He joined the staff of the Register newspaper c.1888⁽²⁾ initially at the Port Adelaide office, and after accompanying Clement Giles' party to Central Australia in 1891, wrote a series of articles in which he advocated a rail link to Darwin and retention of the Territory by South Australia. Amongst other papers reflecting Gordon's interests are his *Nile of Australia* (1906) and *Shall We Hold the South East?* (1902). His admission to the ranks of the Register's editorial staff dates from around 1894⁽³⁾, and he was head of the Register's Hansard staff when he resigned in October 1909⁽⁴⁾ to contest the 1910 Senate election. He was unsuccessful, but won a by-election as Liberal candidate for the Commonwealth House of Representatives seat of Boothby the following year. He was defeated in 1913. Gordon's membership of South Australia's Legislative Council was more secure. He held the Midland District seat from 1913-1944, and was President of the Council from 1932⁽⁵⁾.

In 1917 he was briefly Minister of Education and Minister for Repatriation in the Peake Government. He was knighted in 1925, and in 1927 was appointed Chairman of Australia's delegation to the World Economic Conference at Geneva. Authored the 'Handbook of South Australia' (1908) and edited the first 'Official Year Book of South Australia' (1912); he also wrote books and pamphlets about the State.

Sir David John Gordon died on 12 February 1946. Lady Gordon, nee Peel, predeceased him in 1933.

From the marriage of David John Gordon and Ann Louisa Peel in 1888 there were 4 children⁽⁶⁾, 2 daughters Doris (Mrs. Stuart Matters) who served as a nursing sister 1914-1918, and Jean (Mrs. Victor Day), and 2 sons Douglas and John, both of whom served in World War I. John Gordon also served in the Second World War, and attained the rank of Wing Commander in the R.A.A.F.

1. Australian Encyclopaedia, Angus & Robertson, Sydney. 1958.
2. The Critic 20 October 1909 - extract PRG 520 Series 4.
3. ibid.
4. ibid.
5. Australian Encyclopaedia, Angus & Robertson, Sydney. 1958.
6. Advertiser (obituary) 12 February 1946.

Editorials from The Register newspaper. 1897-1901. 1 vol. [It is likely the editorials were compiled by Gordon who became a member of the editorial staff in 1894.]	1
Quotations. 1892-1919. 1 vol. + 11 loose leaves. Printed and manuscript. [Collection of quotations on which Gordon may have drawn for speeches. Alphabetically indexed by subject.]	2

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- 'River Murray Book 2'. 3
1902-07. 1 vol. Printed. [Book 1 is not extant. Comprises press cuttings relating to States' claims and controversy on distribution of Murray waters, annotated by J.R. Gordon - "... articles by David J. Gordon".]
- Press cuttings, political. 4
1909-17. 1 vol.
[Newspaper and journal articles relating to Gordon's political activities and including a log of lectures, 1909, 1910, recording audiences in attendance.]
- Press cuttings assembled by Lady Gordon. 5
1900-33. 1 vol.
[Inscribed "original newspaper and magazine articles by David J. Gordon. Entered by his wife Anna L. Gordon".]
- Campaign leaflets. 6
1910-13. Printed.
[Published in support of Gordon's candidature for the Senate 1910, Commonwealth House of Representatives. seat of Boothby 1911, & S.A. Legislative Council's Midland District 1913.]
- Statesman of Australia, a poem by Eleanor Wemyss. 7
1917. 1p. Typescript.
[Written to celebrate Gordon's appointment to Cabinet as Minister of Education and Minister for Repatriation.]
- Addresses by David J. Gordon. 8
1917, 1927. 2 items.
Typescript carbon; printed. [Comprises addresses to the Navy League 1917 and to the Women's Branch Committee of the Liberal Federation 1927.]
- South Australia, Completion of Parliament House. 9
1936. 1 vol. Printed.
[Government Printer, Adelaide. Published to Mark completion of Parliament House and to record broadcast messages commemorating the State's Centenary.]
- Military Survey of Adelaide.
1915. 90cm. x 55cm. Printed.
[Map supplied by Reference Library, 4th Military District, showing location of Blacksmiths' shops, factories etc. and marking houses in outer Adelaide.]
- Photographs, Sir David and Lady Gordon.
1906, c.1927-33. 3 items.
[Comprises Parliament V. Press Cricket teams 1906, Sir David and Lady Gordon in Court dress, London, c.1927, and Sir David Gordon as Chief of the Caledonian Society 1930-33.]
- Photographs, John R. Gordon.
1913-62. 18 items.
[Includes photographs of Lacrosse teams, R.A.A.F. and Commercial Travellers Association to which J.R. Gordon belonged.]