

# Obituaries

## Betsy Harris 1915-2014

Life-long Georgist Betsy Harris passed away peacefully at the Kimba District Hospital on Monday March 24 2014, at the grand age of 99 years. Betsy was for decades the secretary of the very vibrant Henry George League of Kimba SA to which Clyde Cameron also belonged. In 2007 the ABC Country Hour interviewed her as a well known voice for justice for farmers. The Country Hour described her as a passionate local women concerned about grain marketing. We express our sympathy to her family and friends.

### How I Saw The Cat by Betsy Harris of Kimba

My story is unique, for there has never really been a time when I haven't really seen the cat. I was perhaps eight or ten years old when a man named Samuel Lindsay walked to Kimba from Port Augusta a distance of one hundred miles to teach the message of Henry George. Kimba was then a new town and all the farmers were engaged in clearing scrub land. The railway line from Port Lincoln had only been finished a short time and a train came to Kimba with supplies every Monday night.

That was the night Sam used to get on what was then known as a "soap box", and he would speak of the great message of Henry George's discovery of the law of rent. He was so successful that almost all the people of Kimba came to appreciate the writings of Henry George. My father James Sampson and his brothers were all convinced and it became the main focus of my family. We heard it all the time as both my father and my mother used to read and talk about it incessantly.

The Kimba Single Tax League was formed and gained much interest. Two men, Harvey Frick and Sam stood for Parliament and Sam lost by only 100 votes. Sam was employed by Griffiths Tea as a salesman and had a hooded buggy and horse and toured all of the Eyre Peninsula making many "converts".

As I grew older I became the Secretary of the Kimba League and we held an annual dinner on September 2 or nearest to commemorate Henry George. We had two very well known women supporters in the late Mrs Harvey and Mrs Ellis and they taught me a lot. One thing Mrs Ellis taught me was we should all as people govern ourselves and abolish governments as we know them. The older I become the more I can see the truth of this as today the present government is the biggest enemy of the people.

In conclusion I feel deeply lucky to have lived in such a time in history that I "saw the cat", very early in life. One thing more important to me is this, that this movement concentrate more on Henry George's discovery of Nature's "Law of Rent" and less on Henry George, the man. Not from any intention of denigrating George as this discovery proved he ranks alongside Quearnsay, the French Physiocrats Turgot and Thomas Paine, but to put his huge discovery where it rightly belongs - to Nature's Law of Rent, living in complete harmony with nature by obeying her laws.