

# APPENDIX L

## CATHERINE "KATE" CLAY

NB: An updated biography of Kate Clay can be accessed at the Australian Variety Theatre Archive.  
See: <http://ozvta.com/practitioners-c/> (or at Pandora <http://nla.gov.au/nla.arc-143747>)

- Born:** Catherine Jubb at Glebe (Sydney) on 28 June 1869
- Family:** Father: Thomas Jubb  
Mother: Mary A. Jubb
- Siblings:** William J. 1872 -  
Thomas 1874 -  
Florence 1876 -  
Penelope 1881 -  
Elizabeth 1888 -
- Married:** Harry Clay at Glebe in 1887.
- Children:** Essie, born at Glebe in 1888.
- Died:** 9 January in Sydney  
Interred at South Head Cemetery (CEO section), along with Catherine and Essie. Allotment No: 236.

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As mentioned in the thesis, there is very little yet known about Catherine Clay's life and stage career. She is only known to have performed, as a soubrette, with the minstrel troupes that Harry Clay was involved with between 1893 and 1905. During this period she toured Queensland with both Harry and Essie, using either the names Kate Henry or Kate Clay. While reviews of her performances do not hold much information concerning her talents or reception with audiences, it seems that she was a reasonably good contralto singer and played her parts in the farces effectively.

Some matters pertaining to her ownership of property and legal matters have been located. These include:

- Catherine was named as the owner of the property at 218 Glebe Point Road, Glebe, purchased in 1908. The residence stayed in her name until 1943 when it was sold to Jane O'Grady. At this time Catherine owed Harold T. Morgan (the Mortgagor) £1,934. It does not appear that she lived at the residence then, as the house was likely rented out for quite a number of years. Interestingly, the lessees of the property were all women.
- It is believed that Catherine at some stage was also named as the owner of a property at Watson's Bay known as "Vaucluse Flats." This was sometime around the early to mid-1920s, and possibly the residence where her husband died. Catherine's Statutory Declaration in Harry's Deceased Estate File (dated 19 May 1925) states in part:

The said deceased had no furniture or personal effects other than worn and useless clothing. At the time of his death he was residing with me in a flat. The furniture in the said flat was entirely my own property having been purchased and paid for by me many years ago out of moneys earned by me as an actress and theatrical artists (File No: 20/1021 No 11278)

- In the same Deceased Estate File, another Statutory Declaration (dated 20 Aug. 1953), Catherine also declared that she had only recently become aware of an additional asset in her late husband's estate, being Lot 1 Princess Parade, Kurnell.

## CRONOLOGY IN BRIEF

### 1893

- Toured with her husband in Walshe's Novelty Company as a singer. She also participated in the farces. One of the songs she performed was "Will You Ever Think of Me?." Catherine also played the part of Mrs Souderwatta in the farce "The Foiled Mashers."

### 1898

- Engaged, along with Harry and Essie, to tour Queensland with J. L. Travers' Continental Vaudeville Company. Billed as Kate Henry she sings such songs as "Never Change Old Friends" and "Venus."

### 1901

- Tours New South Wales, Queensland (and possibly Victoria and Tasmania) with Harry and Essie. Songs performed on tour include: "A Picture of My Best Friend" and "Sweet Tennessee."

### 1903

- Tours New South Wales and Queensland with Harry. Songs performed include: "Not There" and "The Moth and the Flame."

### 1904

- Tours New South Wales and Queensland with Harry. Songs performed include: "Little Stars are Peeping." Played the lead role in the farce "The Chinese Question."

### 1905

- Tours New South Wales and Queensland with Harry and Essie. Songs performed include: "Carrie," "I Love My Love," and "Pretty Mary Green." Undertakes roles in all the farces.

### 1905

- Residing at 29 Wigram Road, Glebe. After the death of her daughter Essie, Catherine is left an annuity of £2 per week, with four additional sums of £3 each, making a total of £116 per year by her daughter. She also claimed the estate owed her £278.7.9 mostly for money borrowed by Essie in order to have repairs done to her house.

### 1965

- Catherine Clay passed away on 9 January in Sydney.

## SONGS KNOWN TO HAVE BEEN PERFORMED BY KATE CLAY

Dates in brackets indicate the first known performance. All other dates indicate other years the song was known to have been performed.

"Carrie" (1905)

"I Love My Love" (1905)

"Moth and the Flame, The" (1903)

"Never Change Old Friends" (1898)

"Not There" (1903)

"Picture of My Best Friend, A" (1898)

"Pretty Mary Green" (1905)

"Sweet Tennessee" (1898) 1901

"Venus" (1898)

"Will You Ever Think of Me?" (1893) Ballad