Sir George John Robert Murray (1863-1942), judge, was born on 27 September 1863 at Murray Park, Magill, Adelaide, second surviving son of Alexander Borthwick Murray, a Scots Pastoralist and politician, and his second wife Margaret, nee Tinline. In 1874-75 he attended the High School, Edinburgh after early tuition at J. L. Young's Adelaide Educational Institution. He matriculated to the University of Adelaide in 1880, winning an entrance scholarship and taking his arts degree in 1883, after annually obtaining first-class honours. That year he was awarded the South Australian scholarship, which enabled him to read law at Trinity College, Cambridge, with financial support from the colonial government. At Cambridge Murray was equal first in the law tripos examinations for the Bachelor of Laws degree in 1887. With financial assistance from his family and an Inns of Court scholarship, Murray completed the requirements for admission to the Bar and was called to the Inner Temple in 1888.

Returning to Adelaide in 1889 he was admitted to legal practice in South Australia, and by 1900 had established a firm position for himself in legal and academic life. He began his long-standing professional relationship with Sir Samuel Way when he served as his associate on the Supreme Court in 1889-91. Later in private practice, he specialized in civil matters. He was appointed K.C. and in 1906 completed the requirements for the Cambridge master of laws degree in 1909. By then he was also involved deeply in the affairs of the University of Adelaide. In 1891 he was elected to the university council beginning a direct, active association which was to continue for fifty years.

After Sir Samuel Way's death Murray was promoted to be his successor. He was a dominant influence on the Supreme Court for the remainder of his life. Appointed K.C.M.G. in 1917, Murray on elevation to the chief justiceship also became lieutenant governor. As a frequent resident of Government House during vacancies in the office of governor, or absences of a governor, he undertook ceremonial and other vice-regal duties. The university also claimed his continuing attention; six times elected chancellor from 1916 to 1942 he presided regularly over council meetings.

Sir George Murray did not marry and lived at Murray Park with his unmarried sister Margaret. He was a trustee of the Adelaide Club. An avid stamp collector from his youth, he had a fine collection of the stamps of the Australian colonies which, with his Australian paintings, he bequeathed to the Public Library, Museum and Art Gallery of South Australia. He endowed the Tinline scholarship in history in memory of his mother's family from 1907, and he gave generously to the university. On his death on 18 February 1942 Murray was buried privately beside his sister in St George's Church of England Cemetery, Magill. The residue of his estate, (about 83,000 pounds) was bequeathed to the university. His extensive library was shared between it and the Law Society of South Australia, which named its library in his memory.

The papers of Sir George Murray and other members of the Murray family were deposited in 1968 on permanent loan during the life time of his great niece Miss M C Murray. On her death in 1990 additional Murray papers from her estate were donated to the Mortlock Library by Miss Murray's solicitors, Finlaysons. The whole of the Murray family's papers is now available without restrictions.
Source: Australian Dictionary of Biography, Volume 10, 1891 - 1939 pp. 640-641 (extract of the biography by Alex C Castles)

Additional material on the Murray family is available from:

N.H.T. March 1991

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**Preliminary survey and arrangement of papers of Sir George J.R. Murray**


8. Folder of correspondence from J.M. Tinline and Mrs. Tinline. 1909-14. [Includes drafts of letters by G.J.R. Murray and newspaper pages.]


10. Folder of correspondence re G.J.R. Murray's appointment as Judge, Trustee of Adelaide Club, acknowledgement for gift to Public Library etc. 1909-11.

11. Folder of correspondence labelled 'Some letters I value'. Mainly 1912, and 1941. [Mostly letters of congratulations on G.J.R. Murray's elevation to the Supreme Court Bench and on his 25 years as Chief Justice. Includes some other letters - notably one from F.W. Maitland of 8 June 1887 suggesting Murray as a historian of the law.]


15. Folder of correspondence. 'Miscellaneous'. 1915-21. Includes material of 1912, [Notable letters on many topics - G.C. Henderson on archives and historical research.]

16. Folder of correspondence. Letters from J.H. Symon to G.J.R. Murray, 1901-09. [I loose letter from George Agars.]


21. Folder of correspondence and cuttings from and about Lord and Lady Tennyson. 1901-10.

23. Folder of miscellaneous correspondence. c.1902-7. [Letter from R.T. Maurice, items about G. Tinline estate and Rhodes Scholarship.]


25. Folder of letters from Alfred Hirst and a few from John Melrose. c.1905-12.


27. Folder of correspondence arising from G.J.R. Murray's office as Lieut.-Governor. Many letters from Australian governors, the Governor-General, and retired South Australian governors. c.1919-23.


52. Miscellaneous papers of G.J.R.. Murray. [Unarranged.]

54. Letters received by G.J.R. Murray, 1880-1941.

56. Letters written by G.J.R. Murray. (Mostly from Cambridge.)

58. School and university papers of G.J.R. Murray.

59. Speeches of G.J.R. Murray. (Some speeches in other series.)

60. Papers about legal matters.
61. General Miscellanea.

**Papers of and relating to Alexander Borthwick Murray and Mrs. A.B. Murray**

50. Miscellaneous papers of Alexander Borthwick Murray.

   Tinline and Murray 1867-68. 1 vol. Manuscript. [with loose letters.]

45. Letters from George Tinline to A.B. Murray. 1867-79. [Other George Tinline letters
   in Gen. Miscellanea, item no.61]

64. Letters received by Mrs. A.B. Murray.

**Papers of Miss Margaret Tinline Murray (sister to Sir George Murray)**

62. Miscellaneous papers.

55. Letters received by Miss Margaret Murray. 1876-1936.

4. Portfolio of Christmas cards, cuttings ('Stately Homes of Adelaide', cricket, Miss
   M. Murray), postcard views and photographs. [Probably received and assembled
   by Miss Murray.] Outsize 2

**Papers of Miss Margaret Murray of Medindie and Bridgewater.**

63. Miscellaneous papers of Miss Margaret Murray.

34. Bundle of papers - letters from her Aunt (Miss Margaret Murray, a sister of G.J.R.
   Murray), papers about conversion of house at Bridgewater, personal accounts,
   receipts.

1. Portfolio containing photographs of Miss Margaret Murray, house at Bridgewater,
   newspaper cuttings, printed items (relating to Jedburgh), postcard views (mainly
   of Magill), and copies in typescript of Douglas family correspondence 1795-1816. 
   Outsize 2.

32. Letters and postcards written by Miss Murray to Mrs. M. Murray,
   6 Park Tce., Eastwood. 1924-25. [Writer abroad - in England, France, etc.]

**Papers of John. Tinline (of New Zealand)**

   [Mainly written in New Zealand, and presumably passed into hands of G.J.R. 
   Murray at some timed]

14. Folder of correspondence of John Tinline. 1902-06. [Copies of letters to G.J.R. 
   Murray, copies of letters from J.M. Tinline (nephew).]
39. Copies of letters sent by John Tinline. 1860’s-1880s. [Some in ink, some in carbon. There is a bundle signed by William Balfour. There is also present the partnership agreement between George and John Tinline for a property in New Zealand, 1861.]

36. Bundle of miscellaneous papers of John Tinline. [Includes letters received from G.J.R. Murray and others, and printed items.]

37. Bundle of miscellaneous papers of John Tinline [Old packet labelled 'I Lindsay Hilson, Library and other papers.' About Jedburgh and transfer of trust property to Police Commissioners of Jedburgh.]

42. Letters received by John Tinline.

43. Will of John Tinline. [He bequeathed his papers to G.J.R. Murray.]


51. Miscellaneous papers of John Tinline.

5. Newspaper cuttings book. Many cuttings about Jedburgh other about New Zealand and some South Australian items. 1890’s-1900’s. [Not necessarily John Tinline's.]


**General Miscellanea**

22. Folder titled 'Pioneer Murray s, S.A.'. B.H. Murray. 6 items and table pasted in cover. [Notes on A.B. Murray. “History and Colonial Experience”, early letters and other papers. Grouping of these papers possibly fortuitous.]


44. Will of George Tinline.

41. Papers - Genealogical and biographical about Tinline family. Pedigrees of Tinline descent.

49. Printed items.

47. Miscellaneous newspaper cuttings about Mrs. Vetch, G.J.R. Murray.

38. Bundle of printed items mainly about Jedburgh, [Includes "A political humbug: or, half an hour with Lord Randolph Churchill", a political pamphlet.]

35. Printed items about Jedburgh. [Provost Hilson, Walter Laidlaw, Sir Walter Scott, Wordsworth.]

53. Pictorial items, portraits, scenes.


65. Map of New Zealand.

57. Visiting cards received

66. Miscellaneous scraps (of no value).

Letters written by various members of the Tinline family. See Special list. 67
1840-1911 (17 items).

Letters written by Alexander Borthwick Murray. See Special List. 68

Letters received by Alexander Borthwick Murray from various people. 69
See Special List.
1891-1903 (14 items).

Letters received by Alexander Borthwick Murray from his children. 70
1874 5 (items). [Comprises letters written on 9-10 June 1874 in Edinburgh, Scotland by his children John, Maggie T. (Margaret Tinline Murray), George and Lottie (Charlotte Mary).]

Letters, comprising correspondence between A. B. Murray and various people, relating to his Merino sheep flocks. 71
1883-1899 (5 items).

Letters, comprising correspondence with A. B. Murray relating to his candidature for the House of Assembly seat of Gumeracha. 72
1862-1865 (11 items).

Letters written by various members of the Murray family. 73
See Special List.
1875-1935 (63 items).

Letters received by various members of the Murray family. 74
See Special List.
c.1855-1938 (29 items).
Papers relating to the estate settlement of the late Pulteney Malcolm Borthwick Murray of Wirrabara. 1900-1901 (12 items).
[Includes letters from businesses at Wirrabara, Stone Hut, Booleroo Centre and Laura, with accounts rendered, sent to the deceased’s brother George Murray.]

Correspondence of Miss Mary Campbell Murray relating to the deposit and use of Murray family papers in the South Australian Archives. 1968-1978 (14 items).

Papers relating to the estate of Malcolm George Douglas Murray. 1908-1920. 3cm. (122 items).
[Comprises personal correspondence, financial and stock records of "Pinnacle Station", Grenfell, N.S.W., indenture, letters from Cambridge 1908-1910 and letters by Jack (John Tinline) Murray. Arrangement of these records by Sir George Murray.]

Wills for members of the Tinline, Malcolm and Murray families. 1852-1940. (6 items). OUTSIZE with Series 80.
[John Tinline senior 1852; William Oliver Malcolm 1862; Malcolm George Douglas Murray 1914; Charlotte Mary Downer 1918; Margaret Tinline Murray 1931; Sir George Murray 1940.]

Assignment of Power of Attorney by John Tinline senior. 1852.
[Power of Attorney assigned to his daughter Margaret Tinline, later Mrs A. B. Murray.]

Indentures relating to Tinline financial settlements and property. 1900, 1912. (3 items). OUTSIZE with series 78.
[Voluntary Settlement by George Tinline on his daughter Mrs Janette Vetch, and mortgage of her property in London.]

Diary kept by A. B. Murray of a journey to the north of South Australia. 1877. 1cm.
[Entries in A. B. Murray’s handwriting from 14-17 June 1877, and in another to 16 July; all other spaces blank. At the beginning is a list of station properties.]

Manuscripts of poetry written by Pulteney Malcolm Borthwick Murray. n.d. (4 items).
["The Dying Boy" and "Home" appear to be juvenile efforts. "Dear John" was possibly written c.1879-1882 in honour of the birth of a nephew, a son of John and Lizzie Murray.]

Notes for a speech of tribute to the late Sir George Murray, K.C.M.G. c1942.
[Delivered at the Sitting of the Full Court after the death of Sir George Murray.]
Certificates of character in favour of Alexander Borthwick Murray. 1839, 1842. (2 items).
[The 1839 certificate was given by the Minister and Session Clerk of Berriedale, Caithness, Scotland. The 1842 certificate was signed by the Presbyterian minister Ralph Drummond in Adelaide.]

Note concerning a loan to Robert Waitt c.1843.
[Written by his cousin George Tinline, Auditor of the Bank of South Australia.]

Note relating to the sale of Merino sheep bred by A. B. Murray n.d.
[In A. B. Murray's handwriting with the names of buyers and their addresses.]

Account for household goods purchased by Mr Murray. 1875.
[The account also mentions "apartments". An English penny Inland Revenue stamp fixed to the account and the date suggest this was during the Murrays' stay in Scotland and England.]

Invitation sent to Miss Tinline. 1857.
[From Mr and Mrs Soward of Norwood to Margaret Tinline, later Mrs A. B. Murray.]

Sketches. n.d. 4 items.
[Possibly drawn by a member of the Murray Family, featuring Magill subjects.]

Papers relating to the history of the Tinline, Douglass, Malcolm, Easton and Murray families.
See Special List.
c.1860-1964. (15 items).

Account and receipt for paintings. 1863. (2 items).
[From Robert Balmer, artist of Jedburgh, Scotland, for paintings done for John Tinline.]

Plan of the township of South Petherton (Tungkillo.) 1861
[Used for land sale on 3 June 1861. Allotments for sale were owned by A. B. Murray and John Dinnison, an associate. Another copy in Map collection C982.]
Poster for the Gumeracha election.  
c.1865.  
[A B Murray won one of the seats for the electorate of Gumeracha in the House of Assembly by-election in 1862 and was re-elected in 1865. Arthur Blyth was the other member.]

Pamphlet entitled "Reconstruction of the Eskdalemuir Free Church".  
1885. Printed.  
[Eskdalemuir in Dumfriesshire, Scotland, was the birthplace of A. B. Murray.]

Proclamation of the Fair of St James.  
1890.  
[Proclamation by the Magistrates of the Burgh of Jedburgh, Scotland.]

Certificate of Service.  
1945.  
[Presented to Miss M. C. Murray by the R.A.A.F. following her service in the Volunteer Air Observers Corps.]

Inventory of Estate and Income Accounts of Lady Palmer.  
1967. 0.5cm.  
[Mrs Margaret Louise Murray and her children Alexander George Campbell Murray and Mary Campbell Murray were among the beneficiaries of Lady Palmer's estate.]

Programme for a Garden Party.  
1891. Printed.  
[Held at "Torrens Park", home of the Barr Smith family on 5 October 1891.]

Collection of envelopes assembled by Miss M. C. Murray  
1881-1938. (36 items).

Newspaper cuttings relating to the Murray and Tinline families.  
1857-1985. 2cm.  
[Cuttings collected by various members of the Murray family and assembled by Miss M. C. Murray.]

Photographs.  
c.1885-1935 (10 items).  
[Photographs of members of the Murray family, Wirrabara station homestead, and scenes of Jedburgh in Scotland.]

Photographs  
ca.1880-1900. 3 items  
[Photographs of ‘Murray Park’ (home of Alexander Borthwick Murray and later his son, Sir George Murray); and one of his carriage passing a grocer’s shop.]
Photograph and note
1929. 2 items.
Comprises a brief handwritten note and a photograph on an ornate lady’s watch.