

David Unaipon ~ By Sierra

David Unaipon is a well known Ngarrindjeri man who was born on the 28th of September in 1872, in Reid Town, South Australia. He has made his way to fame via his many talents which include, inventing, playing the organ and his writing skills. His love for books, music, philosophy and science stayed with him his whole life. In his teenage years (and a little in adult hood,) he also studied Aboriginal mythology. He is a(n almost) world renowned writer and wrote many articles. His legacy (remembrance) will never die because his picture was printed on one of the Australian currencies.

His Father was named James Ngunaitponi and his Mother went by the name Nymbulda Wariamine and they are from South Australia. He was the middle child out of a eight children. When David was younger he attended a missionary and they sang a lot of hymns. David was not a fan of them because they included quite a bit of blood (and gore but, it they were still about Jesus). As a child he liked to read which carried in to his older days. When David was young he liked to set (realistic) dreams for himself. He also liked to read a lot of books so in school he received good grades.

David attended the Point McLeay Mission School (renamed Raukkan in 1982). Growing up he played the organ and had the interests of sciences, philosophy and music. From the age of seven to thirteen he had become a servant to a man who encouraged his interests for philosophy, music and science. David also studied Aboriginal mythology. Shortly after (seeing how much his 'master' encouraged his love for music philosophy and science,) he left school (at the age of thirteen). Later on in his life he went on to file nine different patent applications. However due to the lack of finances he was unable to complete them.

On the 14th of January, 1902, he married a woman of the name Katherine Carter. His wife stayed at home and their marriage was not happy. He made some requests for financial support but it provoked the disapproval of the mission authorities. In 1929 David became the first Aboriginal writer to publish a book called 'Native Legends.' He was also an anglican lay preacher into his late 80's and published booklets on variety of subjects. His inventing bought him fame. David had many life goals and he achieved some that were not even on his list. As it happened David was never financially compensated for all his work. He was also a political activist.

He invented many things but one of his most famous inventions was his handheld sheering tool that improved efficiency and one of his most impressive inventions used the fundamentals of the boomerang to predict helicopter flight. As well as being an inventor and an avid writer, he was an advocate for the rights of the First Nations People. He will be remembered as the first Indigenous writer to be published (publish a book). An excerpt from his book, 'Legendary Tales of Australian Aborigines' is written on the note in micro-script. In 1938 he had a disagreement with the New South Wales branch of the Australian Aborigines league over its National day of mourning on Australia day. In his final ten years (1953) he was awarded a Queen Elizabeth II coronation medal. After passing away (on the 7th of February, 1967, which makes him 95 years old when he died,) he was posthumously awarded the Fellowship of Australian writers Patricia Weickhardt award for Aboriginal writers in 1985. Twenty-eight years after his death his picture was printed on an Australian bank note (the \$50 note) and has stayed there since the October of 1995.

David Unaipon is a beloved Ngarrindjeri man who made his way to fame through his inventions. Born on the 28th of September, 1872 in Reid Town, South Australia, David was the middle child out of eight belonging to his parents who were named James Ngunaitponi (Father) and Nymbulda Wariamine (was the name of his Mother). Both his parents are from a South Australian (Indigenous) region. David had an interest in science, philosophy and music and as he grew this began to shine through. In his older years he studied Aboriginal mythology and wrote many articles including 'Legendary Tales of the Australian Aborigines,' which is quite well known. He died on the 7th of February, 1967 but his legendary legacy will stay with us because of all the articles he wrote while he was still with us. Plus his face is printed on the \$50 note, 'One of his greatest accomplishments,' many people speculate. (This is not necessarily a bad thing but,) David Unaipon will forever be known as the man in the \$50 note.