



From North Adelaide hoteliers to Middleton land owners

Giles Abbott's brother William, who had emigrated to Tasmania in 1827, may have convinced Giles and Sarah to emigrate to South Australia. They arrived on the *Buffalo* in 1836 with four young children. Their father Giles Snr and mother Hannah and four more of their children and their families also emigrated, arriving on the *John Renwick* in 1837. Only two of their siblings remained in England.

In 1837 on the completion of the town survey by Colonel Light, Giles Jnr purchased four sections of land each of one acre for £19.19.0 in North Adelaide. Being a stonemason, he built his home on one of these sections on Kermod Street. In 1838 Giles Snr purchased another section on Kermod Street from G Roberts for £23. This is the site where Giles Jnr built the original Queens Head Hotel. The license was issued on 17 July 1838 to Giles Snr and his son-in-law Henry Grigg Hewett. Giles Snr, Giles Jnr and Henry ran the hotel at various times in the 1830's and 1840's. Giles Snr reportedly sold it in 1856 for £600. Today Abbott Lane on the east side of the Queens Head Hotel commemorates Giles Abbott Snr.

Giles Jnr also ran a transport business to Gawler in 1840. In 1841 he sold his home in North Adelaide for £175 and began to lease land in the Middleton area in 1842, eventually purchasing it in 1853. Subsequently he bought more land with total holdings of up to 600 acres. Several homes were built for his family, some of whom were involved in farming. One section close to the Middleton town site was known as Burton Farm and this is where Giles Snr and Hannah lived in retirement when they left Adelaide.

John Abbott the son of Giles Jnr, also purchased land in the Middleton area. At the site of the ford in the river near his house known as Glenford, he built two bridges across the creek which became known as Abbotts Bridges. He also built a church in the area. In 1899 his son, also John Abbott, built the first Temperance Hotel in the district for his sisters Jessie and Ruth. They named it Mindacowie, which means "shelter by water" and it remains a prominent landmark today.



Mindacowie Guest House, Middleton

**From information provided by Chris Abbott -
Giles Jnr's great-great-grandson
March 2014**

Giles ABBOTT [1806-1870] & Sarah BEWS [1806-1886]

Married 28 August 1826
In Burton Latimer, Northhamptonshire

Departed 23 July 1836, Portsmouth, England
Arrived 28 December 1836, Holdfast Bay on the

Buffalo

Children of Giles & Sarah:

Ann (1826-1902) m Thomas HAYNES

Hannah (1829-1902) m [1] Isaac CLARKE

[2] Francis WADHAM

John (1831-1893) m Mary AGNEW

Giles (1834-1896) m Elizabeth ABBOTT

William (1837-1883) m Caroline THORNE

Eliza (1839-1912) m Ralph WARDLE

Mathew (1841-1909) m Harriet YELLAND

Jacob (1843-1912) m Lucy LUSH

Emily (1846-1929) m Thomas JONES

