



Former Tradesman Turns His Hand to the Land

It was the memory of his cousin, and the stress of business, that prompted Charles French Folland, painter, glazier and carpenter, to emigrate to South Australia, after his brother-in-law expressed the wish to do so. He and a friend decided to travel together, with the intention of farming, although neither had previously worked in this way. He sponsored a fellow Methodist Society member which proved advantageous, as this fellow was a labourer and of great service in the colony.

On arrival, Folland waited with his luggage in the sandhills for a week, whilst his friend organised the purchase of land at Walkerville. The land was divided equally, a well dug, a large tent erected for Folland, and a prefabricated wooden house erected for his friend. Folland then erected a more substantial dwelling, with pine walls on a stone foundation, floorboards from Tasmania, and reeds from Reed Beds used to thatch the roof.

Plenty of provisions had been brought with the families and they decided to take a rest period for some months, shooting and mixing with the natives, whilst enjoying life. Folland soon tired of this, and bought land in North Adelaide, building a cottage, sinking a well, and purchasing land at Pine Forest, where he established nine acres with fruit trees and vines.

The bankruptcy of the state prompted the sale of the mortgaged North Adelaide property, and so Folland concentrated on establishing his property at Pine Forest. The land, when cleared, grew malting barley, wheat, canary seed; in fact anything you could wish to grow. Prosperity enabled Folland to lend money, and he made two journeys to the Victorian goldfields with flour, selling this and buying gold before returning to Adelaide by boat, dressed in a ragamuffin style, and reselling the gold at a profit.

Folland took an interest in local affairs and politics, and was a representative on the Yatala South Council, regularly contributing on a diverse variety of subjects to the newspapers of the day. At the age of 96 years he shared his opinion of agnosticism, having declared himself an agnostic in the latter half of his life.

Charles French Folland died at the age of 97, leaving an estate of not more than £2,200. His legacy continues today with the establishment of 'Folland Park' (at Enfield) and the Enfield Memorial Garden on land that he once owned.



The Pines' at Enfield, built by Charles Folland

**From information provided by Paula Bartsch
Charles & Charlotte's great-great-great granddaughter
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Charles French FOLLAND [1814-1911] & Charlotte VICKERY

Married on 17 October 1836
at Barnstaple, Devonshire

Departed 7 October 1838 from London
Arrived 23 January 1839 at Pt Adelaide on the

Resource

Children of Charles & Charlotte:

Ellen (1837-1838)

Ellen (1838-1838)

Ellen (1840-1941)

Selina (1841-1920)

Eliza Ann (1844-1924)

Charles (1845-1939)

John (1849-1934)

