



Company Man Helps to Lead his Community

William Lillecrapp, having joined the service of the South Australian Company as an assistant superintendent of sheep, sailed with his wife Jane aboard the *Katherine Stewart Forbes*, arriving at Holdfast Bay in 1837.

Their first home was a tent on the banks of the River Torrens. William soon became active in local interest groups, being appointed secretary of the Wesleyan Society and in the 1838 Wesleyan Plan of Adelaide, William is listed as a preacher.

He first worked as a clerk for the South Australian Company at the head office in Stephens Place. By 1840 he and Jane had moved to Company land at Walkerville, then to Macclesfield, where William used his 23 acres to grow wheat and run 14 head of cattle.

Early in 1845 William set out with a large flock of sheep from the SA Company's Mt Barker Station travelling along the Coorong to Mt Gambier. Here he surveyed land for the Company to purchase.

Returning from the South East in early 1846 he and his family lived at the Company's headquarters, 'Ludlow House' Gumeracha, as Superintendent of all land at the "Sources of the Torrens". In June 1848 William returned to the South East taking the first herd of cattle from Adelaide to Mt Gambier.

William received his land grants in 1849, purchasing land at Noarlunga, Kenton Valley, and Eden Valley. The township of Eden Valley was established on his land. He assisted with the surveying of the town, ensuring that the Churches and Hotel were built in what, he considered, to be the most appropriate location.

He severed his connections with the SA Company and took up his land at Kenton Valley at the top of the range bordering the Cudlee Creek boundary. Here he built a four-roomed house, and planted many trees. His new home was named 'Netherhill' after the family property 'Netherbridge' in England.

William was a founding member of the Salem Baptist Church, Gumeracha, a Justice of the Peace, and a signatory requesting the Governor of SA to form the Talunga District Council.

Jane died in 1870 and was buried in Salem Baptist Church Cemetery. In 1872 William remarried a widow, Jane (Jeannie) Hooper née Brackenridge, moving to Kent Town where he died in 1881. He was buried next to Jane in the Gumeracha cemetery. Jeannie died in 1910 and was buried in Payneham Cemetery alongside her son, Henry Hooper.

From information provided by Joan Martin,
William's great-great granddaughter-in-law
March 2014

William LILLECRAPP [1815-1881]

Married

[1] Jane RYALL [?-1870]

on 7 June 1837 in Horsington, Somerset
&

[2] Jane HOOPER (née BRACKENRIDGE) [?-
1910]

on 31 October 1872 in Unley

Departed 14 June 1837 from London
Arrived 17 October 1837 at Holdfast Bay on the

Katherine Stewart Forbes

Children of William & Jane RYALL:

Emma (1838-1838)

William (1840-1920) m [1] Ann LEWIS

[2] Emma BRICE

John (1841-1893) m Eliza WANSBOROUGH

Albert (1843-1930) m Esther PRINCE

Mary (1845-1933) m Henry DAWSON

Charles (1847-1885) m Eliza FISHER

Francis (1849-1908)

Children of Jane HOOPER:

Elizabeth (1853-1934) m John HOOPER

Emily (1856-?) m Henry HOOPER

