



A Soldier, A Gentleman & A Servant of the Colony

William was born in Berhampore East Indies but was sent to England in 1811 at age 5 to be educated at schools in Kent. He served in India where he obtained his lieutenancy, then went with the Recruiting Service to Ireland where he married Eliza Minton Smyth in Dublin in 1831. He served in India in 1834-6 with the 38th Regiment then returned to England where he purchased his Captaincy in 1837 and sold out in 1840 having served sixteen years in military service.

William, Eliza and two daughters arrived in South Australia in 1840 where he purchased Section 7 District B from David McLaren for £160. He occupied the wooden house there, naming the 80 acres "Clanfergeal". Part of the 80 acres today is now the Repatriation General Hospital.

In 1841 he was appointed a Justice of the Peace and in 1843, Private Secretary to Governor Grey, Clerk of the Councils and a member of the Board of Audit. Eventually he was appointed in 1852 Auditor General of South Australia and a Trustee of the Savings Bank of South Australia. In 1867 he resigned as Auditor General following a dispute with the Treasury Department reaching a stalemate and officially retired in 1868 having served the colony for twenty seven years.

William was a supporter of the founding of St Peters College. He promoted the ideals of closer ties with Evangelical Christians and opposed "High Church" practices. In 1855 he proposed the Protestant Church Alliance with Samuel Tompkinson.

William was a strong supporter of St Mary's on Sturt along with Dr Handasyde Duncan. They are reported to have raised the £90 to build the Stringy Bark Church in 1841 on land donated by John Wickham Daw. William maintained a lifelong association with St Mary's on Sturt and is buried in the Churchyard.

William also had an interest in the wine industry. He was reputed to have planted cuttings from Camden Park in NSW. There are references to his wine making in the diaries of Benjamin Babbage who was a neighbour of William's at St Mary's.

George E Loyau in "Notable South Australians or Colonists Past and Present" (1885) said of him:

"There are few old colonists who have not a vivid recollection of Captain O'Halloran whose tall, upright figure, military bearing, and courteous address marked him out for what he was, a soldier and a gentleman."

**From information provided by Brian O'Halloran,
Williams' great-great grandson
March 2014**

William O'HALLORAN [1806-1885] & Eliza SMYTH

Married on 15 December 1831 in Cork, Ireland

Departed 26 April 1840 from London
Arrived 11 August 1840 at Port Adelaide on the

Lallah Rookh

Children of William & Eliza :

Eliza (1832–1911) m Samuel WHITE

Henry (1834–1837)

Helen (1837–1837)

Mary (1838–1915) m Thomas GILES

Joseph (1842–1920) m Alice SIMPSON

Nicholas (1844–1912) m Elizabeth HALL

George (1846–1849)

Edward (1852–1926) Clara PHILLIPS

