



Portrait of William Field held by the Art Gallery of SA
Painted in oil on ivory, attached to the rear is a lock of his hair and a medal.

William FIELD [1807-1850]

Married Jane DAVENPORT
on 7 November 1847 at Yankalilla

Departed 1 May 1836 from London
Arrived 20 August 1836 at Nepean Bay,
Kangaroo Island on the

Rapid

A Navy Man and Pioneer of Pastoralism

Following in the steps of his father and several uncles, William George Field entered the Royal Navy in 1819 and rose to the rank of Lieutenant in 1826. While serving on *HMS Howe*, he was offered the position of first officer on the brig *Rapid* under the command of Colonel William Light on its trip to South Australia.

William was also Assistant Surveyor to Light, and when they arrived at Kangaroo Island, the search began for a suitable site for the capital and land for settlers to be moved away from Nepean Bay. He was also involved in the discovery of the Onkaparinga River and the reconnaissance of the Port River.

When supplies were in short supply, William was put in command of the *Rapid* and sailed to acquire them. With his brother Henry who had arrived on the *John Renwick*, he sailed to Sydney and returned with flour, horses, bullocks, wagons and barges. William realised that it would be cheaper to bring stock overland but before he could do anything about it, he was ordered to take the *Rapid* to England for more surveyors and equipment, along with a cargo of 150 gallons of whale oil - the first produce from the colony.

On his return, William overlanded stock from New South Wales and started mixed farming at Mt Barker. He became Justice of the Peace and Magistrate and was responsible for the Official Rural Returns for the area. From 1842, he held an Occupational Licence for two 80 acre sections at Hay Flat near Yankalilla, and in 1845 he purchased 40 acres, where he built a substantial home named 'Adderbury Cottage' after his childhood home in Oxfordshire - later owners renamed the house 'Hillside'.

William married Jane Davenport in 1847 but his health was deteriorating. They lived with his brother Henry and his family, and together they ran the property and supplied fresh meat to Encounter Bay. A well-respected man, William died from tuberculosis.



'Hillside' formerly Adderbury Cottage [SLSA B 27651]

From information provided by Elizabeth 'Libby' Ottaway
William's great great great niece,
with assistance from Dr Jeff Nicholas
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