



## *A Widowed Mother Lives to See Her Sons Prosper*

Eliza's half-brothers Dr William James Browne and Dr John Harris Browne (with their sister Anna) had arrived in South Australia in 1839 and 1840 respectively. William Lavington Marchant suffered from consumption (tuberculosis) and it was on their recommendation of a better climate that he and Eliza also decided to migrate with their five sons and one daughter. Unfortunately William died just one month after arriving. Luckily Eliza had the support of her half-brothers who were very successful pastoralists and at one time the biggest exporters of wool from South Australia.

At first, Eliza and her children lived in an imported wooden house near East Terrace before moving to Halifax Street where some of the boys attended Mr Drummond's school and then the Rev T Q Stow's establishment. They were then employed on the Browne brothers' properties including Wilpena, Arkaba and Aroona, which some of the sons leased themselves as they grew older and more experienced. Thomas Marchant squatted on the land at Mannanarie and on his death in 1854, the lease was taken over by William Marchant.

In about 1846 Eliza moved to "The Olives" at Smith St, Walkerville and was at the laying of the foundation stone of St Andrew's Church at Walkerville in 1848. This church became the family church for the Marchants. Eliza continued to live at Walkerville throughout her life and some of her grandchildren were born there. She spent time at her sons' properties including Mannanarie where her son George and his family lived and also visited her half-sister Anna at Pewsey Vale.



Mannanarie Homestead

When Eliza turned 92 in March 1894 she was interviewed by a reporter from *The Register* who was impressed by her remarkable memory and good eyesight and hearing. She had just finished a large skilfully sewn patchwork quilt for a children's orphanage. Eliza died later that year on 28 August.

Her sons grazed stock on properties in South and Western Australia. George and Frank were badly affected by drought in the 1860s. The most successful brother William owned various properties in the Flinders, as well as Burnside Estate at Strathalbyn and was the only Marchant brother who returned to England to live. His half uncles William and John Browne also returned to England to live, which begs the question, "Did people only return to England to live when they were successful?"

**From information provided by Libby Ottaway,  
Eliza's great-great granddaughter  
March 2014**

## Eliza MARCHANT [1802-1894] [née BALNE]

Married  
William MARCHANT [1800-1840]  
25 November 1823 in Walcott St, Bath

Departed 5 April 1840 from Gravesend  
Arrived 7 July 1840 at Holdfast Bay on the

## Fairlie

### Children of Eliza & William:

- John (1824-1867) m Margaret SMITH
- Thomas (1826-1854)
- William (1828-1889) m [1] Georgiana PHILLIPS  
[2] Emma Jane WILKINS
- George (1831-1905) m Jessie TRIMMER
- Francis (1833-1882) m Mary Anne SAMSON
- Mary (1836-1837)
- Anna (1838-1920) m Thomas PHILLIPS

