



“Forward, was my motto”

Richard Day began in the colony with 16/4d. in his pocket. Firstly living in a hut on the site of the now old Adelaide Gaol, then at Walkerville and Prospect Village, he became a tenant farmer at Tam O'Shanter Belt (now Regency Park/Kilburn), adding to his income by carting to Port Adelaide, a three-hour trip.

'Forward, was my motto. I worked hard, not eight hours a day, but day and night as circumstances required. Work done was what I strived for, and I never left for tomorrow what I could do today. To that I owe my success.'

Hard work allowed him to establish a dairy on a property of around 420 acres between Churchill Road and Trafford Street, Angle Park, with some of this land eventually being acquired for the Islington Sewage Farm and the Islington Locomotive Works.

Days Road, in this vicinity, was originally cut by Richard in order to provide access between his first home in the area which was on the eastern side of the track, and 'Croydon Villa', built in Croydon North. In between seasons Richard travelled to Burra with a team of eight bullocks, taking three weeks. He transported goods for merchants, travelling across the Gawler River and the Light, and returning with copper ore for a fee of £3 per ton. The ownership of this team of bullocks was a claim to 'respectability'.

Blocks of land were sold by Richard for £20 each to develop the suburb of Croydon, and it was determined that there would be no hotel in order to encourage people of good character. The railway station at Croydon was opened in 1888 on land donated by Richard, and the subdivision of Croydon North followed in the 1890s and has street names inspired by those of his children.

He eventually purchased large sections of property in the Reeves Plains district (north of Two Wells) such that, prior to his death in 1900, he was able to provide each of his sons with a property. The Queen's Diamond Jubilee Homes, at Hindmarsh, whose foundation stone was laid in 1897, were built on land donated by Richard, to rent to those in need. Further homes were added in 1906 and 1928. The buildings were paid for by public subscription and maintained by the accumulation of nominal rents and donations.

Richard died a wealthy man, leaving an estate in excess of £54,000.



From information provided by Paula Bartsch
Richard & Mary Ann's great-great-granddaughter
March 2014

Richard DAY [1818-1900] & Mary Ann DAY [née HARRIS]

Married 11 September 1837
Rodborough Church, Gloucestershire, England

Departed 26 September 1837 from London
Arrived 18 January 1838 on the

Royal Admiral

Children of Richard & Mary Ann:

Thomas (1838-1839)

Robert (1840-1899)

Thomas (1841-1920)

Elizabeth (1843-1929)

Richard (1844-1917)

Mary Ann (1846-1915)

Luke (1848-1916)

Walter (1849-1930)

William (1851-1911)

Henry (1853-1924)

Harriett (1854-1931)

James (1857-1934)

