



Shield of the Independent Order of Oddfellows
[Source: <http://ioofsa.org.au/history.htm>]

A Family of Builders Makes Their Mark in Blackwood

Henry Grigg Hewett was a very brave young man, who at the age of 20 ventured alone to the new province of South Australia where he felt his skills as a foreman of a timber yard would be useful.

He was the third of eleven children, and the eldest son of Henry Francis Grigg Hewett and Frances Matilda Elizabeth Bacchus of Hampshire.

It is believed he became friends with Giles Abbott aboard the *Buffalo* and later married Giles' sister Mercy Abbott, after she and the rest of her family arrived in South Australia the following year aboard the ship *John Renwick*.

Henry and Mercy had nine children, only three of whom lived long enough to marry and have children of their own. Their sons, Daniel and William, both worked in the Victorian goldfields and were later to become builders. Daniel is credited as having built both Coromandel Primary School and the Inebriates Retreat (later Belair Hope Lodge), which is now St Johns' Grammar School. He and his family had built more than half the houses in Blackwood by 1914, most of which remain today and can be seen on

Mitcham Council's 'Blackwood Historic Walk'. The house currently at 44 Coromandel Parade, Blackwood, which he built for himself and his family, was named 'Buffalo' after the ship in which his father Henry had arrived.



'Buffalo', 44 Coromandel Parade, Blackwood

During his short life, Henry worked as a stonemason, book keeper and business owner with his father-in-law, and was a clerk in the Police Force at the time of his death. He bought land at Lot 798 in Barnard Street, North Adelaide.

The business he owned with his father-in-law was the Queen's Head Hotel, Kermode Street, North Adelaide. The licence was issued on 17 July 1838 to sell beer and wine, and the hotel also served as a meeting place for public gatherings, lodges and as an entertainment venue for the local residents.

His death was recorded in *The Register* as follows:

"At his residence, North Adelaide, yesterday morning on the 16th instant at five o'clock of consumption, and after much painful suffering, Henry Grigg Hewett who for a long period previous to his illness acted as a clerk in the Police Office. The deceased was a member of the Hope Lodge of Oddfellows, the members of which bore the greatest respect for him."

From information provided by Elizabeth Davidson,
Henry's great-great granddaughter
March 2014

Henry HEWETT [c1816-1850]

Married Mercy ABBOTT
on 30 November 1837 at Holy Trinity Church

Departed 23 July 1836 from Portsmouth
Arrived 26 December 1836 on the

Buffalo

Children of Henry & Mercy:

Hannah (1838-1857)

Henry (1839-1840)

Myra (1840-1861)

Daniel (1842- 1924) m Alice VAWSER

William (1844-1922) m Charlotte KEMP

Martha (Mary) (1846-1882) m Thomas TUCKEY

Twins (died at birth)

Emily (1849-1850)

