



A Local Champion with a Loveable Disposition

Ann Wood arrived in South Australia as a little girl 15 months of age, with her parents John and Amelia, and brothers William aged 7 and John aged 2. Her father was a sawyer, miller and farmer.

John Wood was one of the earliest Christian Bible workers in the new Province, walking many miles for Sunday and other services, often accompanied by Ann.

The family initially lived in Mount Torrens and then moved on to Morialta, and had three more children: Elizabeth Sarah, Robert George and Henry Charles.

It was in Morialta where Ann met her future husband Thomas Charles Watkins, who was working with the South Australian Company as a sawyer. Thomas had arrived in South Australia on the *Stebonheath* on 5 November 1849.

After their marriage they moved onto Norton Summit and finally Mount Torrens where Thomas gained work as a sawyer.

During the marriage they produced eleven children, which kept the family very busy.

Unfortunately, Thomas had a very serious accident whilst working at the bottom of a saw pit. He was squashed by a log that fell on him in the pit while it was being milled. He spent many years in the Fullarton Home for Incurables (later the Julia Farr Centre) and died at that home on 28 October 1889.

This accident was a tragedy for the family, and made Ann's life much harder than ever before. Ann would walk from Norton Summit to Adelaide and back to sell her dairy products and when the violets were in bloom, she would often pick a bunch and wear them in her bonnet.

In her final years Ann lived in what was known as the 'Bond Store' in the Main Street of Tweedvale (Lobethal). This building still stands today as a private residence in Lobethal.

Ann known to all as 'Little Gran', lived a lovely and beautiful life, endearing herself to all she came in contact with by her loveable disposition. She was always in great demand in sickness and distress, and was ever ready to assist in alleviating suffering.



On Ann's death in 1924 she had been a widow for 35 years, and was survived by five sons, three daughters, 58 grandchildren and 66 great grandchildren.

Bond Store, Lobethal
[Source: <http://lobethal.sa.au/history/european-history>]

**From information provided by Janine Horsnell
Ann's great-great granddaughter
March 2014**



Ann WATKINS [1836-1924] [née WOOD]

Married Thomas WATKINS
on 23 September 1852
at Holy Trinity Church, Adelaide

Departed August 1837 from Gravesend
Arrived 4 December 1837 on the

Lady Emma

Child of Ann & Thomas:

Thomas (1853-1931) m Bertha BAUMGURTEL

Robert (1855-1945) m [1] Mary ANDERSON
[2] Justina MARTYN

Mary Jane (1857-1942) m John SHEARER

Henry (1859-1866)

William (1861-1939) m Susan BARTHOLOMEW

Albert (1863-1864)

Ann (1866-1953) m Henry BAUMGURTEL

Henry (1868-1883)

Frances (1869-1942) m Louisa STIECKE

Arthur (1875-1966) m Martha LUGG

Ellen (1877-1914) m [1] Thomas STOTT

[2] Wally BENDER