



Southwark, England

## 'A Fine Land for the Hardworking Man'

The Wilson family came from Bermondsey, a major centre of the tanning industry in Southwark, where John Wilson was originally a cordwainer (shoemaker). He migrated as a 'gentleman farmer', and Thomas Grenville Wilson, his son, as 'agriculturalist'.

Unfortunately John Wilson died soon after arrival in 1838, and his widow Mary married widower John Herbert, builder and fellow pioneer who had arrived in Kangaroo Island on the *Lady Emma* in 1837.

Son Thomas Grenville began life in the colony as a sawyer and splitter in the Tiers (Crafers) with his three stepsons from his marriage in England to widow Sophia Marks (née Pullen). One stepson, Thomas Marks, was killed when a loaded timber wagon overturned on him en route to Adelaide in 1838. In 1841, he acquired 160 acres at The Sturt where he established Seaview Farm, which he worked successfully until his death in 1856. He was one of the first five persons appointed on the District Council of Brighton in 1853, and in 1854, in response to the perceived threat of attack by the Russians, he and his sons joined the Brighton and Sturt Yeomanry Cavalry.

Thomas Grenville and Sophie's son Thomas Alfred Wilson emigrated in 1839 on the *Moffatt*, initially working as an apprentice to John Herbert, his grandmother Mary's husband, before going to work for his father at Seaview Farm. By 1844, he had acquired his own property Wardang Farm from which he wrote to a friend in London 'that this is now a land of peace and beauty'. 'This is a fine land for the hardworking man (wages 10/- per week). The soil is fruitful, crops, fruits and vegetables.'

After his marriage in 1850 to Mary Bell, Thomas Alfred taught elocution at Mrs Wilshire's school and gave lectures. He wrote regularly for the *Pastoral Journal*. After his father's death in 1856, he inherited Seaview Farm and continued to work the property as an experimental farm where he invented the side draught to the reaping machine. He also became the first Chairman of the Brighton District Council. He and Mary had 10 children.

In 1860 Thomas Alfred 'went into the wilds of Eyre Peninsula 60 miles north west of Port Lincoln', establishing two sheep stations, Mungarowie and Cooladdie, which were relinquished after severe drought. He then managed a vineyard at South Rhine near Mount Crawford for 5 years.



John  
WILSON [c1779-1838]  
&  
Mary  
CLARK [1779-1851]

Married at St Giles Camberwell, SURREY

Departed 11 May 1837 from Gravesend  
Arrived 20 October 1837 at Pt Adelaide on the

Hartley

Child of John & Mary:

Thomas Grenville (1798-1856)  
m Sophia MARKS (née PULLEN)

Grandson of John & Mary:

Thomas Alfred (1821-1889) m Mary BELL

From information provided by Margaret Lewis  
March 2014





# *The Colony's First Dentist & Founder of Normanville*

Robert Norman, surgeon dentist, travelled to South Australia on board the *Taglioni* in 1844, accompanied by his wife Sarah (née Hayes), infant son Herbert and mother Mrs Sarah Norman senior.

His family were original subscribers to the South Australian Colonization Project in 1834 and Robert purchased his first land, section D1014, in 1839. Further sections were bought and at the time of his death he was reported as "a large land proprietor in the Yankalilla district".

His first home was in Wright Street Adelaide and the nearby Norman Street is named after him. On 5 October 1844 in the South Australian Register, he announced his dental practice in Wright Street, the colony's first. By December 1845 he had also opened a Daguerreotype studio in King William Street, Adelaide with George Heseltine. It is considered to be South Australia's first photographic business.

In 1847 he moved to "Belle Vue Cottage", east of the G & R Wills warehouse on North Terrace, where he lived and practiced dentistry until his death.

Robert and his wife Sarah had six sons and two daughters. Three sons - Herbert Hayes, Roger and Leslie Norman also became dentists.

He was a man of varied interests. He spoke Gaelic, French and Italian; he was a Shakespearian scholar, played several musical instruments and possessed a fine tenor voice. He was an excellent billiard player and fine swordsman.

Robert constructed a mechanical hand from sea-cow bone for John Coles, a veteran retainer of the, then Governor, Sir George Grey. When the Governor heard of the hand he paid Mr Norman a call and was so impressed by the "ingenious invention" he decided to have it charged to "his private purse." The hand is on display at the Royal Adelaide Hospital medical library.

On 2 June 1849 Robert Norman announced in the *Register* newspaper that he intended forming a township to be named "Normanville" on his property on the Bungula River. After his



Norman's Grave Marker in Robert Norman Street, Normanville

death at his home "Belle Vue Cottage" on 31 October 1883, his body was taken by horse-drawn hearse to Normanville to be buried with his wife and son under the vines and olive trees on his property there.

**From information provided by Michael Smith,  
Robert & Sarah's great-great grandson  
March 2014**



Robert  
NORMAN [c1817-1883]  
&  
Sarah  
HAYES [c1820-1867]

Married on 1 September 1842  
in Westminster, St Anne Soho, London

Departed 12 February 1844 from London  
Arrived 18 June 1844 at Port Adelaide on the

Taglioni

Children of Robert & Sarah:

Herbert (1843-1926) m Evangeline DEWHIRST

Alice (1845-1896) m William BRADDOCK

Hugh (1848-1912) m Ena HERBERT

Walter (1850-1918) m Henrietta STEPHENS

Roger (1853-1895) m Emma JONES

Amy (c1856-1857)

Leslie (1858-1895) m Alice BURGE

Lionel (1862-c1868)



John Bentham Neales c1840  
[Source: State Library of South Australia B15386]

## John Bentham NEALES [1806-1873]

Married Margaret WILLIAMS  
11 July 1843 in Adelaide

Departed 26 February 1838 from Portsmouth  
Arrived 24 June 1838 on the

## Eden

### Children of John & Margaret:

Elizabeth (1844-1933) m Reverend Thomas FIELD

William (1845-1914) m Emma PALMER

Caroline (1848-1873) m John Lyon FIELD

Margaret (1849-1925) m Robert BUNBURY

John (1852-1906)

## *The First Member for Adelaide Makes his Mark*

John Bentham Neales was born in Plymouth in 1806 and sailed to Adelaide on the *Eden* in 1838. He quickly established himself as an auctioneer and agent and became associated with the Adelaide Auction Company. He subdivided land at Plympton (with Henry Boswarva, 1838), Port Lincoln (1839), where he became first editor of the *Port Lincoln Herald*, Centenary Estate, North Adelaide (1842), Glenelg (1850) and later at New Hamburg near Strathalbyn (1853).

In 1841, he floated Australia's first mining company, the South Australian Mining Association, to work the Wheal Gawler silver and lead mine at Glen Osmond. Then in 1842, he was appointed Government Auctioneer.

Among his many activities, Neales was a prime mover and part financier of John Charles Darke's expedition 1844 to Eyre Peninsula, which departed from Neales' Auction rooms for Port Lincoln.

In 1845 Neales was made an original director of a revived South Australian Mining Association, which acquired copper mines at Montacute and Burra. As an original shareholder in The Monster Mine at Burra, he became very rich. In 1846 he found gold at Montacute. In 1856, he advocated that iron ore be mined and smelted, leading him to be called the Father of Mining in South Australia. Meanwhile he continued to work successfully as Adelaide's leading auctioneer and sold shares on commission in his Auction Mart, keeping registers of available shares. This was reported as the first Stock Exchange in Adelaide, with the largest exchange hall in Australia.

1850 was a notable year for him. He resigned as Government Auctioneer and became Commissioner of the Board of the City, secretary of the Cornwall/Devon Society and a member of the inaugural Chamber of Commerce. In 1851, he became one of the three Trustees of the Savings Bank and was elected to the Legislative Council as the first Member for Adelaide, the beginning of an active political career.

He helped frame the Constitution of 1853, which established responsible government in the colony, and subsequently was elected to the House of Assembly representing Adelaide in 1857-60, Stanley in 1862 and Burra in 1862 - 70, and finally to the Legislative Council. His portfolios included Commissioner of Crown Lands and Immigration.



Home built by J B Neales - Blanche Villa, 34 The Broadway, Glenelg

**From information provided by John Neales'  
great-great grandson Tom Chapman and  
great-great-great granddaughter Sally Grundy  
March 2014**





State Library of South Australia PRG 34-27-2-11

## Exploring Spirit Helps to Uncover a Colony's Assets

The Cock family were Bible Christians from the Kirkcaldy/Dysart area of Fife, Scotland. The first of the Cocks to leave Britain were Robert and Catherine (his second wife) who sailed on the *Buffalo* with six children.

Less than two weeks after the *Buffalo's* arrival Hindmarsh and Cock challenged (unsuccessfully) the site selected by Light & Kingston for the new settlement.

Robert formed a partnership with fellow passenger William Ferguson as a carrier and merchant. He bought three town acres in Adelaide and part of a fourth. By June 1837, just six months after his arrival, Robert acquired new premises in Hindley Street and advertised his services as a salesman, auctioneer and appraiser as well as offering merchandise from arriving ships.

In 1838, he did minor exploration south of Adelaide with a small party, which was "the first to reach the Murray directly from Adelaide, and to determine the northern boundaries of the lake."

When finding the route to the northern shores of Lake Alexandrina, Robert followed the Onkaparinga River. This exploration later led to a land division including Balhannah where he established a property called Mount Annan. In a creek near the present town of Bridgewater, Cock's packhorse got bogged. The creek became known as Cox's Creek.

In 1838 at the Governor's instigation, he went exploring on Eyre Peninsula and entered the lagoon, which Governor Gawler later named Franklin Harbour.

However, things did not go well at Mount Annan and Robert was caught in the economic and financial turmoil of the 1840s and declared insolvent. He held on until 1852 when he went to the Victorian gold fields, then Portland, and finally to Mount Gambier where he established a brewery.

Robert must have reported favourably about his Adelaide adventures to his family in Fife, because within a few years of



his arrival, his father and siblings all came to Adelaide: his father Robert Snr, Alexander, James, John and Christina in 1838 and William in 1840.

From information provided by Peter Mussared  
Robert's great-great grandson  
March 2014

## Robert COCK [1801-1871]

### Married

[1] Betty WISHART in 1823  
at Kilmany, Fife, SCOTLAND  
&

[2] Catherine CHRISTIE in 1832  
at Abdie, Fife, SCOTLAND

Departed in 1836 from Portsmouth  
Arrived 28 December 1836 on the

## Buffalo

### Children of Robert:

Elizabeth (1824-1852) m James BENNY

Christian (1825-1867) m Henry CHAMBERS

Nancy (Agnes) (1828-1848) m Mr KELLY

Robert (1828-1884)

James (1833-1901) m Magdalene WILLIAMS

Catherine (1835-1880) m William WARREN

Jane (1838-1862) m Edward SQUIRE

John (1841-1914)

William (1844-?)

Annie (1847-1861)





[State Library of South Australia, B23349]

John  
TENNANT [c1800-1867]

&

Jessie  
AITKEN [c1812-1896]

Married at Ashkirk, Scotland  
[date unknown]

Departed 6 August 1839 from London  
Arrived 19 December 1839 on the

Duchess of  
Northumberland

Children of John & Jessie:

Elizabeth (1830-1915) m [1] John HAIGH  
[2] Charles STEVENSON

Margaret (1832-1891) m William MORTLOCK

Andrew (1836-1913) m Rachel FERGUSON

Jessie (1842-1935) m John LOVE

## Shepherd Leads his Flock Overland to Success

John Tennant was a poor relation of the Tennants of the Glen, Peebles, Scotland. He worked as a shepherd at Easter Essenside Farm, in the border districts where he met and married Jessie Aitken. The couple had three children before gaining an assisted passage to South Australia in 1839.

He quickly found work as a shepherd for fellow Scots, the Messrs Malcolm, tending their flocks first at Dry Creek and then further north on the South Para near Williamstown. In 1844 he was in charge of moving the Malcolm's sheep into new lands beyond Robe, which gained him valuable experience in working in remote and unsettled regions. Under their employ he was able to own stock, registering his cattle brand TE on March 10 1841. By 1845 he was ready to strike out on his own and sold enough of his rams to raise the money to buy Tallala Station at Port Lincoln.

To claim the property he led a party of 14 men and 8,000 sheep in what was the first successful attempt to overland sheep around Spencer's Gulf. Tennant's group set off from 'The Glen' near Williamstown on November 3 1845 and was halted in the heat of the summer at Depot Creek near Mt Arden by a lack of water beyond Port Augusta. It was not until the beginning of July the following year, that conditions were suitable to move the flocks down to Port Lincoln. They did this part of the trip with the loss of only five sheep despite experiencing very trying conditions until reaching Cowell. It was on approaching the hills behind Lipson Cove that the transition into greener pasture was greatest. The journey ended when they got to Tallala on the Tod River near Louth Bay on the August 8 1846.

His lands included an outstation further up the Tod at White Flat, and there was an abandoned station further on again at the Tod Reservoir. He wanted still more land and immediately took out an occupation licence on the select country he had just passed through to create Lipson Cove Station. In surveying this

new station, he engaged the services of a skilled draughtsman also new to the area, John McDouall Stuart. They became friends, and on 20 April 1860, during his fourth expedition into the north of Australia, Stuart named his discovery of Tennant Creek in John Tennant's honour.



Map of Lipson Cove Station drawn by John McDouall Stuart 1848

From information provided by Simon Gore,  
John's great-great-great grandson  
March 2014





## Marion BAIRD [1823-1900]

Married

[1] William COULTHARD on 19 January 1842  
&

[2] Philip PATERSON on 18 March 1860

Departed 26 August 1837 from Gravesend  
Arrived 6 December 1837 on the

## Navarino

### Children of William & Marion:

John (1842-1908) m Johanna PRIZIBELLA

Thomas (1844-1850)

James (1846-1920) m Charlotte DICKERSON

David (1849-1951)

William (1851-1922)

Thomas (1853-1940) m Elizabeth MILDREN

Robert (1855-1925)

Margaret (1857-1889) m Alfred FULLER

### Children of Philip & Marion:

Marion (1860-1897) m James MILLER

Charles (1862-1943)

Silas (1866-1918) m Sarah HARRIS

## A Life Dedicated to Family

Marion was born the 8<sup>th</sup> child of Margaret (née Reedie) and Thomas Baird in Shields, Fife, Scotland. After Thomas died, her mother remarried James Greig in 1831 and he brought the Baird family and their son William to Adelaide on the *Navarino*. They lived in Adelaide for a year or so and then rented Gleeville Farm (now Beaumont) where her stepfather died in 1845.

Marion married William Coulthard in 1842 and they settled in the Nuriootpa area. By 1843 he had built a two-roomed slab cottage on the site of today's Vine Inn. He was the first licensee of the Red Lion Inn catering for the passing trade after copper was discovered at Kapunda. It was around the Red Lion that the town grew, as William laid out the town of Nuriootpa in 1854 and began building a beautiful bluestone mansion for his family. In 1858 he set out northwards looking for more land, but at Pernatty Station he died of thirst, leaving Marion a widow with six surviving children.

In 1862 Marion then married her property manager Philip Paterson, who had been head stockman for George Fife Angas, and together they finished building the bluestone home for the Coulthard and Paterson children.

Marion, Philip and family remained in Nuriootpa until John (Coulthard) married and his first child was born in 1871. Philip bought land at Hamley Bridge and they moved with their three children and the three youngest Coulthard children.

In 1875 Marion and Philip helped their son Silas and Thomas Coulthard establish themselves in the Booleroo area. Marion's other Coulthard sons, Robert and William, remained bachelors and worked on many stations in the remote areas of inland Australia. James Coulthard settled at Koolunga, near Snowtown and raised a family there. Charles Paterson was crippled early in life and was cared for by Marion and Philip.

Daughter Margaret Coulthard married and settled in the Booleroo area. Second daughter, Marion Paterson, married and settled in the Booleroo area for a time, later moving to Adelaide and Coolgardie, before returning to Adelaide.

Marion and Philip were cared for by their granddaughters until their deaths in Hamley Bridge aged 77 and 88 years respectively. Marion had devoted her life to caring for her large combined family and supported two husbands and their sons contribute to opening up rural South Australia.



Coulthard House, Nuriootpa [Source: <http://www.heritagebuildingsofsouthaustralia.com.au>]

**From information provided by Dianne Skull,  
Marion's great-great granddaughter  
March 2014**





## Caroline PARKYN [1820-1903]

Married Joseph GRIGG  
1 June 1846 at Holy Trinity, Adelaide

Departed 25 July 1839  
Arrived 18 December 1839 on the

## Cleveland

### Children of Caroline & Joseph:

- Abraham (1847-1928)
- Grace (1848-1933) m William ACKLAND
- William (1849-1922) m Isabella SEMPLE
- James (1852-1933) m Emily WHITEHEAD
- Jacob (1854-1945) m Sarah EVERETT
- Fanny (1856-1921) m John DODGSON
- Caroline (1858-1939) m Henry CHAPPLE
- Mary Ann (1860-1935) m Johann ZILM
- Joseph (1861-1951) m Elizabeth CHAPPLE
- Edwin (1864-1952) m Ada NEILY
- Isaac (1866-1937) m Annie PROUSE
- Martha (1868-1964) m Johann TRAEGER
- Albert (1870-1957) m Edith TAYLOR

## Rewards for Hard Work at Home and on the Land

After emigrating from Cornwall, Caroline married Jacob Grigg at Holy Trinity Church in Adelaide in June 1846. The couple first settled in Palmer where Jacob worked in the copper mines at Tungkillo (also known as Reedy Creek), which had been established by the South Australian Mining Company in March 1846 on a 20,000 acre mining lease. Here their first three children were born.

They moved to Walkerville in about 1850, where Jacob in partnership with a Mr Nankivell ran a carrying business out of Port Adelaide.

By late 1854, the Grigg and Nankivell families had moved to Eden Valley in the South Rhine area near Mount Pleasant where Jacob purchased "Spring Farm" and took up agricultural pursuits on a mixed farm. For a while, he continued to fulfil cartage contracts between Adelaide and the Victorian goldfields and was away from home for long periods of time. This meant that Caroline had to cope with both domestic and farm duties (such as milking, poultry care etc).

From 1857, their home doubled as a meeting place for the local Baptist congregation until a chapel was built in 1859, and as venue for ploughing matches in which his eldest son Abraham was often a winner. In 1871, Jacob served on the South Rhine Council.

In 1883, Jacob and Caroline took up another farm with seed crops, sheep and cattle at South Hummocks in the Hummock Range north of Port Wakefield. While three of their older children had been married by then, seven of the younger children married in the Port Wakefield area.

After Caroline's death in 1903, Jacob lived with his daughter Fanny Dodgson at Eden Valley. It is said that he kept his coffin in the house ready to be used when he died, so that he could be transported to South Hummocks to be buried beside Caroline.

In his will, Jacob left £100 to each of his 13 children, which was a handy sum in those days, given that he lived until he was nearly 90 years old without receiving an old age pension. His land at South Hummocks stayed with the Grigg family until 1966, and the house was demolished in 1970.



From information provided by Pauline Brinkworth,  
Caroline & Joseph's great-great granddaughter  
March 2014





## James PHILLIS [1797-1889]

Married Susannah CHAPMAN  
on 14 October 1820 at Eastry, Kent

Departed 6 August 1839 from London  
Arrived 19 December 1839 at Port Adelaide

## Duchess of Northumberland

Children of James & Susannah:

William (1821-1889) m Harriet Cox

Thomas (1823-1851)

George (1827-1909) m Caroline BUSHELL

Charlotte (1829-1907) m John BUSHELL

Eliza (1832-1902) m Thomas FULWOOD

Emma (1833 - 1926) m Henry PHILLIS

Harriet (1836-1915) m Samuel TAPSCOTT

James jnr (1838-1920) m Mary McBEATH

## *In Honour of a Pleasant Home and Family*

James Phillis and family are credited with having named the area at the headwaters of the River Torrens *Mount Pleasant*, believed to be in honour of James' sister Pleasant. Mount Pleasant was also a farming property (and hill) near their Eastry home in Kent.

James married Susannah Chapman 14 October 1820, and by late 1838 they had eight children. Sadly, wife Susannah died on 30 December 1839, just after arriving in Adelaide on the *Duchess of Northumberland*, leaving James to care for his young children. He joined his sister and brother-in-law Charlotte and Henry Bushell, who had already come to South Australia on the *Africaine* in 1836, when they settled in Port Adelaide in 1840. James acted as a watchman at Old Port Adelaide landing while Charlotte Bushell helped care for the Phillis youngsters.

Land of the Eastern Sources of the Torrens Special Survey became available and energetic James bought land grant sections in the Hundreds of South Rhine and Talunga. Sons William, Thomas and George helped James prepare the Mt Pleasant land for farming in 1842 and built accommodation for the families. James and family moved to Mt Pleasant in 1843 and in that year they raised the district's first crop of wheat and carted it to market in Adelaide.

Gradually he added to his land holdings. Son William established *Ham Farm* on three sections and became a successful farmer and livestock breeder. Thomas died in 1851 and his father took over the *Updown Park* property with James jnr, just across from *The Pines and Ashby* farm. George farmed with his cousin and brother-in-law John Bushell until moving to his own property of *Spring Vale*. Henry and Charlotte Bushell farmed at *Kent Farm* for the remainder of their lives. All actively supported St John's Anglican Church and community groups in Mt Pleasant.

As a result of James' foresight, a large party of Phillis' (including his brothers and sisters) came to Mt Pleasant via Melbourne in 1855. James remarried in 1855 and on his wife Martha's death in 1875, he was cared for by his widowed sister, Frances Dixon, at *Updown Park* until his death aged 92 years in 1889. He left 194 living descendants, including two sons, four daughters, sixty-eight grandchildren, 117 great grandchildren and three great great grandchildren.



Eastry Church, Kent

From information provided by Elizabeth Harris,  
James' great-great-great granddaughter  
March 2014





# *New Colony is Tailor-made for an Entrepreneur*



Gill, S T. [1818-1880] *Former Register Office, now the chief merchant tailor, King William & Rundle St, Adelaide c1840.*  
<http://nla.gov.au/nla.pic-an2376947> [Courtesy of National Library of Australia]

**George  
WHITE** [1813-1876]

&

**Eliza  
BAXTER** [1814-1888]

Married on 24 November 1834 in  
Stonehouse, Gloucestershire

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

## Royal Admiral

Children of George & Eliza:

Charles (1835-1891) m (1) Margaret CHAPMAN  
(2) Adolphina MILLER

Jane (1837-1907) m Charles PEARCE

Richard (1839-1872) m Rosalie REICH

George (1841-1878) m Sarah BIGNELL

Sarah (1843-1899) m Charles BLEECHMORE.

Eliza (1845-1846)

Emily (1847-1923) m William PHILLIS

Henry (1849-1872)

Eliza (1851-1853)

Harriet (1854-1905) m Arthur FRANKLIN

Frederick (1858-1935) m Mary WILCOX

George White, a tailor of Gloucestershire, brought his wife Eliza and two young children, Charles and Jane, to South Australia, on the *Royal Admiral* in 1838. They went on to have another nine children. Eliza and George soon established a home and tailoring business on Hindley Street, and the façade of his business is depicted in a watercolour by S T Gill.

After the economic crash in 1841-1842, George proved to be an enterprising businessman by first working for and then purchasing a business in Rundle Street from W. Pearce, Merchant Tailor. He relocated this business to King William Street about 1852 where he continued to be very successful.

George had an entrepreneurial nature and by the early 1850's he realized a large venue for meetings and performances was needed in the developing colony. On the evening of June 26, 1856, The Grand Masonic Ball was held in Mr White's New Rooms, which were designed by George Kingston, architect. The room was larger than 40ft X 70ft with a 22 ft high ceiling. This magnificent building complex, which included offices, retail business and The Clarence Hotel, was situated at 80 – 88 King William Street. It was to be located next to the Adelaide Town Hall and preceded it by several years. White's Assembly Room continued to be the chosen venue for many prominent visiting artists' performances, also for significant local events and as a meeting place, and bore White's name up until 1880 when it became Garner's Theatre. The local papers of these times have many reviews of performances and events held in White's Rooms.

In 1860 George White purchased a 40-acre section in Fullarton (corner of Cross Rd and Mitcham Rd, now Fullarton Rd). Here he established a fine home, magnificent garden, two cottages, large cellars and a vineyard, and named the estate *Rosefield*.

He became a noted vigneron, winning prizes for his wines in London and other colonies.



Rosefield Vineyard [Source: State Library of South Australia B21614]

George, known as 'Tailor White', died from dropsy on 12 November 1876 at his Fullarton residence aged 63. He bequeathed his estate to Eliza, who eventually sold the vineyard and relocated to a house she built on the corner of Beulah Road and Queen Street, Norwood. Eliza died there on 16 August 1888. Both George and Eliza are buried in West Terrace Cemetery, where a large headstone commemorates their lives.

**From information provided by Judith Francis,  
George & Eliza's great-great granddaughter  
March 2014**





## *“Forward, was my motto”*

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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-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)

