

# CEMETERIES TOURS YANKALILLA DISTRICT

## TOUR 3: Yankalilla Public Cemetery

### Inman Valley Road Yankalilla

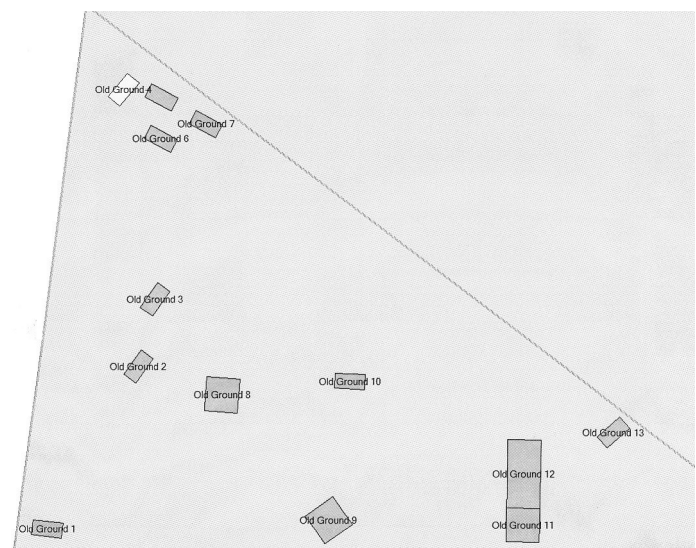


The Yankalilla Public Cemetery was established in 1858 and the first burial was that of Mary Lowe in February of that year. By August 1858 two other burials had taken place, according to a letter to the *Register* newspaper by Thomas Willson, but there is no record of these burials. There are probably a number of unrecorded burials, especially in the old ground, and there are also many unmarked graves. But there are also many graves with headstones to mark the final resting places of some of our early settlers.

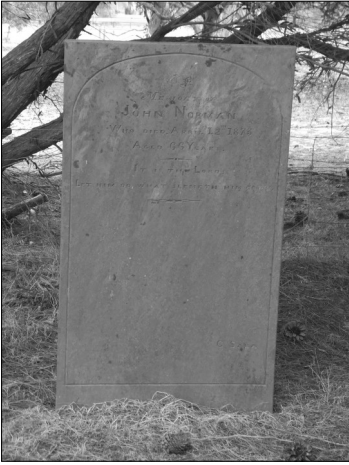


Grave of Mary Lowe, first burial in the cemetery.

Mary Lowe died 10 February 1858, aged 58 years.



Plan of the Old Ground



John Norman: Old ground 1

John Norman, the brother of Robert Norman, came out to South Australia in 1839 on the *Thomas Harrison*, with his sister and brother-in-law Anna and Septimane Herbert. He settled at Yankalilla in 1842 but later moved to the Aldinga area, where he served as Chairman of the Aldinga District Council. As Chairman he fought hard to have the route of the Main South Road at Sellick's Hill follow the line which was eventually accepted. The road was opened in 1859 at the hotel at Sellick's Hill, and the hotel was given the name "Norman's Victory" (now known simply as the Victory Hotel) in recognition of Norman's efforts. About 1865 Norman returned to Normanville, where he lived until his death in 1873.



James and Agnes Smith: Old ground 8

James and his wife Agnes arrived from Scotland on the *Baboo* in 1848 and settled at Wattle Flat. In 1852 James went to the Victorian Goldfields, where he did well, sending his earnings back to Agnes, who purchased land. James and Agnes subsequently built their home, "Brookside", completed about 1864, which was a substantial residence for those times. James was a Justice of the Peace and a Councillor and was chairman for two periods. Agnes died at Brookside in 1889, aged 65 years. James remarried in 1890 and he and wife Caroline moved from Brookside about 1895 and lived in a cottage at Yankalilla. James Smith died in 1905 at the age of eighty.



John and Sarah Putland: Old ground 10

John and Sarah Putland came to South Australia in 1840 with their five children. They moved to Yankalilla in the mid 1850s, living at first near the township, but they soon moved to live on the property of their son Henry at Cockatoo Hill. John died in 1864 and Sarah in 1888. The entire Putland family engaged in farming in the Yankalilla district. John Putland junior acquired land at Hay Flat and built "Rose Cottage". Putland's Hill is named after him. His son George married Harriet Fowler, the daughter of boot-maker John Fowler. George and Harriet are buried in the nearby plot, Old Ground 11.



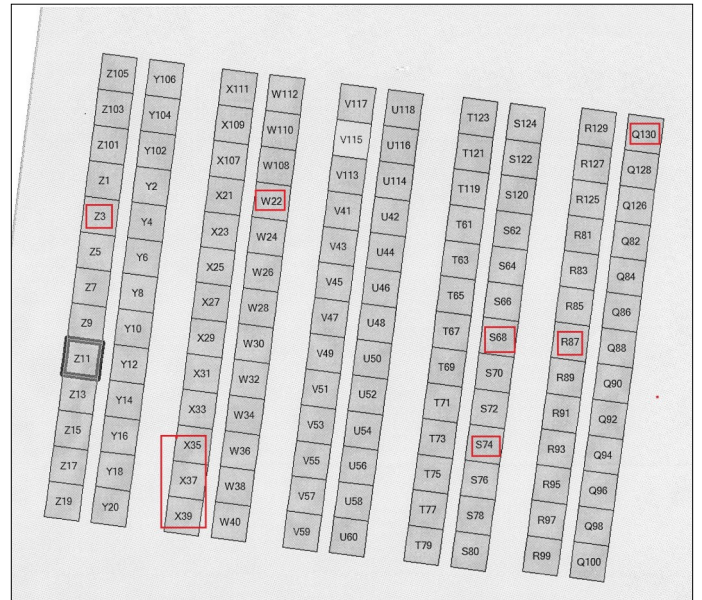
Skinner children: Old ground 12

The unmarked site alongside the graves of George and Harriet Putland contains the graves of five young children, all the children of William Thomas Skinner. William Skinner arrived in South Australia with his parents, Thomas and Mary Skinner, in 1854. Thomas was a blacksmith, and William followed in his footsteps. William married Eliza Nixon in 1868. Eliza was only 17 years of age. Their first child, Mary Eliza Jane, was born in 1869 but only lived for 11 days. Seven more children were born between 1870 and 1880, but three of those died young: William Henry died in 1874, aged 8 months; Rose in 1876, aged 13 months; Maud Louise in 1884, aged 9 years. William and Eliza moved to NSW about 1878. William returned to Yankalilla about 1882, and subsequently had another eight children with Sarah Button. Their first daughter, Charlotte, born in 1884, only survived for 7 weeks, and she was buried here with her half brothers and sisters.



Robert MacIndoe Robertson & Annie Robertson, Q130

In 1855 Scotsman Robert MacIndoe Robertson married Mrs Ann Wise, the widow of John Wise, the owner of Tunkalilla station and they had lived at and managed Tunkalilla. In 1867 Robertson bought section 1043, near Normanville, and he built a substantial two-storey stone dwelling of nine rooms, which he named Appakaldree. This house, lovingly restored, still stands on Hay Flat Road. Robertson died on 4 September 1902, aged 71 years. His wife, Annie, died in 1916. Also buried here are their daughters Margaret Annie and Augusta, and Augusta's husband Norman Bruce McNeil.



*Plan 2. This part of the cemetery also has many graves of early settlers. A few have been selected for this tour (marked in red on the plan). But there are many other interesting headstones. Take the time to wander around and read the inscriptions.*



Joseph Currie, R87

Scotsman Joseph Currie was in Yankalilla by 1864, working as a bootmaker. His shop was at 117 Main South Rd, in the shop in front of Lilla's cafe. His first wife, Emma, died in 1890. In January 1892, at the age of 73, he married Hannah Jeffery, a widow of 63 years of age. Hannah died in September that same year. Joseph wed for a third time in January 1894, marrying another widow, Mary O'Callaghan. Mary owned a house at 48 Main St Yankalilla, and for a few years Mary and her first husband, Thomas, rented the cottage to the Sisters of St Joseph for the school set up by Mary MacKillop. Mary had come out from Ireland with her parents, Thomas and Catherine Ahern, in 1855. Joseph Currie died on 9 November 1903 and was buried here. According to Council records his first two wives, Emma and Hannah, are buried here with him.



William & Marion Mitchell, S68

William Mitchell left England in 1838 for Tasmania, where he spent three years working as a farm labourer. In 1841 he came to Adelaide and shortly afterwards was involved in taking a flock of sheep to Rivoli Bay in the South East. In 1853 he bought the Normanville Hotel. The Council rate assessment books show that in 1856 he was living in Normanville on what is now Bungala Park, and that he had a butcher's shop there. He left Normanville for a few years in the 1860s and farmed at Rapid Bay, but returned to Normanville in 1873 to run the Normanville Hotel, where he lived until he died in 1891 at the age of 73 years. William Mitchell married twice. He had three children by his first wife. He married Marion Taylor in 1858, and they had five children. Marion died in 1900, aged 63 years, and is buried here with William.



John, Susan and Jane Gardner, W22

John and Susan Gardner and daughter Mary came out to South Australia from Scotland in 1839 on the *Welcome*. The family lived for a while in Adelaide, where John worked as a carpenter and a policeman. At some stage they moved to the Yankalilla district and by 1857 they were living at Dairy Flat (Torrens Vale) where John owned about 260 acres (the property is now known as Fannyside). During the period 1839 to 1853 they had seven more children, (four girls and three boys). Their second daughter, Susannah, (born 1839) married Thomas Tonkin of Dairy Flat, but she died in 1862, aged 22 years, seven months after the birth of her son. She is probably buried in Harcourt cemetery in Torrens Vale. John and Susan's son Robert married Elizabeth Nosworthy in 1867 and they had six children. Their second child, Jane, died in 1870, aged 11 months, and she is buried here with her grandparents.

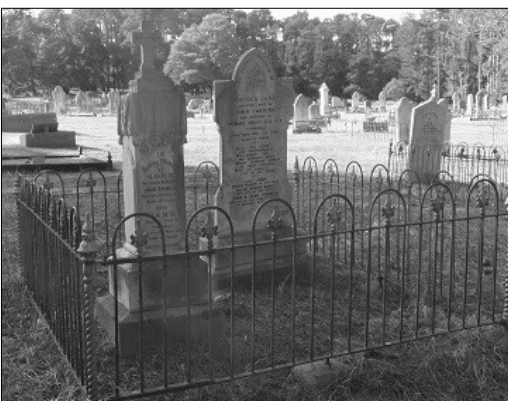


Roads family, X35, X37, X39

Thomas & Mary Roads, with their eight children, arrived in South Australia January 1849. Three more children were born between 1850 and 1854. The family lived in Adelaide for a while, and then in October 1851 Thomas, with his two eldest sons, went to the goldfields in Victoria to try their luck. They were reasonable successful and on his return from Victoria in 1852, Thomas bought land at Yankalilla. Once in Yankalilla Thomas set up a building and carpentry business. His wife Mary died in 1857, and is buried in the Wesleyan cemetery behind the RSL Hall. Thomas remarried in 1861. He and his second wife, Martha, had three children. Thomas died in 1892 and Martha in 1897.

Eliza Roads, neé Bowyer, came out with her parents Thomas and Rebecca Bowyer in 1855. She married Frank Roads, son of Thomas Roads, in 1865. They had three children: Jane born 28-8-1866, George born 11-4-1868, and William born 22-8-1871. Only Jane lived to adulthood. George died in 1870 aged 1 year and eight months (see adjacent marker). William died at twelve days old on 3 September, 1871. His mother Eliza had died the day before, on 2 September. According to Council records William is buried at Old ground 3.

Thomas and Rebeckah Bowyer came out to South Australia with their seven children in 1855 on the *Norman*. The Bowyer and the Roads families forged a close relationship, with two sons of Thomas Roads marrying two daughters of Thomas Bowyer, and one son of Thomas Bowyer marrying a daughter of Thomas Roads. They probably also had a good business arrangement, as Thomas and his family were builders, and Henry Bowyer (son of Thomas) established Bowyer brickyards. Rebeckah died 25 October 1869, aged 69 years and Thomas died 16 October 1879, aged 69 years. All of these wooden grave markers were made by George Roads, son of Thomas Roads.



Cornish family, Z3

John and Jane Cornish were in South Australia by 1855. Their son John was born in 1849, and daughters Mary Louisa and Rosina were born in 1855 and 1859. The family came to Yankalilla district about 1867 and ran the Normanville store. About 1872 Cornish and Company acquired Fergusson's mill. John Cornish senior died in 1875 and John junior took over flour mill, while Mrs Cornish and her daughter Rosina lived at the store. Rosina married J.B.Clark in 1898 and they retained ownership of the Normanville store for many years. Jane Cornish died 29 April 1899. John junior married Esther Jane Kelly in 1876 and they had six children. Esther died on 5 December 1889, aged 34 years. John remarried in 1892 to Sarah Annie Ashton. John died in 1921, aged 71 years.