

People of the Yankalilla



Alexander CHRISTIE (1814 - 1883)

Married: Ann DOWIE (1820 - 1897)

Arrived in Yankalilla district c 1855

Settled at: Delamere, Cape Jervis

Occupation: farmer, mail contractor

Buried: Bullaparinga cemetery

Children:

William (1841 – 1923) m Mary ROBERTSON

Agnes (1843 - 1927) m George JONES

Ann (1846 - 1905) m Thomas JONES

John (1848 – 1921) m Sarah Jane WARREN

Maxwell Alexander (1850 - 1926) m Elizabeth COLE

Margaret (1852 – 1853)

Janet (1854 - 1932) m Thomas PIKE

Henry Samuel (1856 - 1940) m Jessie BELCHER

Lambert Ferris Bowden (1858 - 1934) m Rosa GRUNDY

Hugh Watson (1860 - 1927) m Jane PADDON

Jane (1863 - 1898) m James CHALLINGER

Lillias (1865 - 1952) m Benjamin GOBELL

Jemima (1865 - 1901) m Frederick MITCHELL



1872-1881 from "Group of [women] Old Colonists "

Ann Christie [B 19985/27D]

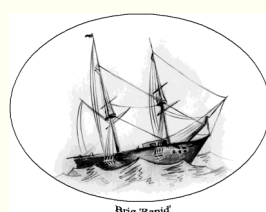
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Alexander Christie and his wife Ann (both of Edinburgh, Scotland) arrived in South Australia on 7 June 1839 on the *Sir Charles Forbes*. Alexander was 24 years of age, and Ann was 18 years. Two years later their first child, William, was born. Babies arrived at approximately two yearly intervals until the birth of their last two daughters (twins), Lillias and Jemima in 1865. They had a total of 13 children, all except one living to adulthood. Their daughter Margaret only lived for 14 months.

After moving to the Rapid Bay district Alexander and Ann lived at first at Delamere on part section 1519. Christie was one of the signatories to the petition of 1855 requesting that the Rapid Bay district be separated from the Yankalilla Council, and that a separate Rapid Bay Council be constituted. In 1857 and 1858 Christie served as one of the Councillors on the new Rapid Bay Council.

In 1856 Christie purchased sections 102 and 103 (Hundred of Waitpinga) near Cape Jervis. When the family actually moved to Cape Jervis is unclear, but the Birth Register records that Alexander and Ann's son, Lambert Ferris Bowden, was born at Cape Jervis in 1858. This son was named after a prominent Delamere resident Lambert Ferris Bawden, a man renowned for his musical ability and an active member of the community. His wife was also the local midwife, and the story goes that she delivered the baby and persuaded the Christies to name him after her husband.

In 1867 a fortnightly mail service was established between Cape Jervis and Kangaroo Island, the mail being taken by boat from Cape Jervis to Hog Bay (Penneshaw). Alexander Christie and J.Thompson were the successful tenderers for this service. They operated the service for six years. Christie later won the tender again, and operated the service with the help of his sons. Christie successfully made the journey across Backstairs Passage many times, but in 1883 on a fishing trip he was not so lucky. On attempting to come into Cape Jervis during rough weather his boat capsized and he was dashed against the rocks and was drowned. His death was widely reported in the newspapers. His widow, Ann, stayed on in the family home at Cape Jervis until her death in 1897.



2021 compiled by Margaret Morgan

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For more information on other notable people of the district contact yank.hist.soc@gmail.com