

People of the Yankalilla District



Bowyer's old brick kiln ruins 2017

Thomas Henry BOWYER (1810-1879)

Married: Rebekha ROOT (1810-1869) in 1833
Suffolk, UK.

Arrived Adelaide: 1855 aboard the ship *Norman*,
as steerage passengers with their seven children.

Children of Thomas & Rebekha:

David (1835-1898) m. Elizabeth Jane ROGERS,
1865, Bible Christian Chapel, Yankalilla.

Susannah (1838-1911) m. George ROADS, 1861,
Christ Church Yankalilla.

Henry (1841-1919) m. Sarah Eliza SHARRAD 1867,
Christ Church Yankalilla.

Sarah Ann (1843-1921) m. Henry DUNSTALL 1866,
Christ Church Yankalilla.

Eliza (1846-1871) m. Francis 'Frank' ROADS, 1865,
Bible Christian Chapel, Yankalilla.

George (1850-1913) m. (1) Mary Ann ROADS 1881,
Christ Church Yankalilla. (2) Eleanor WILLIAM-
SON 1887, Christ Church Yankalilla.

Hannah (1854-1914) m. John BERRY, 1876, Christ
Church, North Adelaide,



Eleanor Bowyer nee Williamson 1877

Thomas Henry Bowyer, wife Rebekha and their seven children emigrated in December 1854. Thomas took up land along Salt Creek Road, Hay Flat, which adjoined William Sharrad's 100-acre property on which William built his house 'The Olives'. In 1865 Thomas's son Henry, together with Thomas Roads, leased sections 1173 and 1174 in Yankalilla. On 18 April 1867 Henry Bowyer, aged 25 years married Sarah Sharrad and in 1869 Henry bought a 1/4 acre allotment in Wissanger from Septimane Herbert and they lived there for a few years until Henry bought Section 401, at Wattle Flat in 1878.

On this section there was a brickyard which, according to rate assessment books and Directories, had previously been operated by William Sugars from about 1864. When Henry Bowyer acquired the property he took over the brickworks and Bowyer Brickyards flourished

In 1954, a 100 ft x 50 ft oregon single-span galvanised shed was erected and, in 1957, a brick-making machine installed, and the horse works removed. The large kiln needed 17 tons of wood to fire 1000 bricks over a period of 48 hours, the kiln being stoked every two hours. Bowyer's bricks were used in many buildings in the district still being used today, including the old Myponga Cheese factory.

Henry and Sarah had 13 children between 1867 and 1886, although four died young, three from diphtheria in 1884

Henry's son George, who married Fannie Smith, carried on the business, followed later by a grandson Walter. Walter Bowyer and Sons' brick-making plant at Wattle Flat ceased operations in 1967, the family having been involved in brickmaking for 130 years.

Later known as 'Granny' Bowyer, Eleanor Williamson (1850-1942) married George Bowyer (1850-1913), Henry's brother, after the death of George's first wife, Mary Ann Roads, in 1886. Mary Ann and George had two children before she died – Frederick Thomas and George. Eleanor and George Bowyer had five children – Emily Rebeka, Rose Mary, Charles Eric, Amy May and Ernest Herbert.



2021 compiled by Lorraine Day
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For more information on other notable
people of the district contact
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