

People of the Yankalilla District



John Lush (1807-1884)

Married: Martha Hopkins (1816 - 1896)

Arrived in Yankalilla district: 1843

Settled at: Inman Valley

Occupation: farmer, artist

Buried: Congregational Church Bald Hills

Children:

Martha Hopkins (1841 - 1895) married John HANCOCK

John Henry (1842 - 1915) married Charlotte DENNIS

William Isaac (1844 - 1923) married Ann HANCOCK

Sarah Ann (1847 - 1924) married Henry STEVENS

James Arthur (1849 - 1943) married Clara Jane HARRY

Charlotte Emily (1851 - 1886) married Joe WOODCOCK

Alice Madeline (1857 - 1929) married Benjamin CROSBY

Mary Matilda (1859 - 1860)

John Lush was born on 2 April 1807 in Somerset, England. He received a good education and was a talented artist and singer. While in England he worked as a portrait painter. In 1837 he decided to accompany his brother and sister to the new colony of South Australia and they set sail from Portsmouth on 26 February 1838 aboard the *Eden*, arriving in South Australia on 24 June 1838.

In Adelaide John met Martha Hopkins, who had come out in 1837 with her brother on the *Buckinghamshire*. They were married at Holy Trinity Church on 1 September 1840. Their first two children were born in Adelaide, but by 1843 the family were at Inman Valley, where John had taken out an occupational licence for land. As land became available for sale John began to buy, and between October 1851 and May 1856 he obtained land grants for 12 sections at Inman Valley. By 1861 he held a total of 1242 acres. By 1866, however, he faced serious financial difficulties and only avoided insolvency by family members taking over his debts. By the time of John's death in 1884 only three sections (308, 309, 267) remained in his ownership.

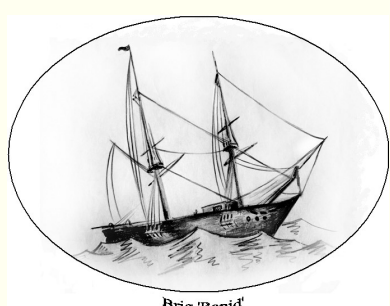
John and Martha's first home at Inman Valley was probably on section 268, but after acquiring a land grant in 1855 for section 309 on what was then known as "Inman Hills", John built a substantial house (Fairview) on that section and moved his growing family there. John and Martha had a total of eight children, but their last child, Mary Matilda, died at the age of 14 months and was buried in the Bald Hills Congregational church graveyard. During his time at Inman Valley John continued his interest in painting and singing:

It is said that he would walk to Adelaide with a basket containing paints and brushes, paint a portrait, sing in White's Rooms in Hindley Street and walk home again a few days later.

Martha was heavily involved in the Bald Hills Congregational Chapel in the early years, and in 1875 a church report stated that "J. Lush, Sen., had expressed his desire to enter into fellowship." When John died on 13 March 1884 he was buried in the church graveyard, alongside his daughter.

Martha continued to live at Fairview with her daughter Alice until retiring to Strathalbyn about 1891. Martha died on 23 December 1896, aged 80 years, and was buried next to her husband and daughter.

Information taken from Lush, A. *Gentleman John*, Adelaide 2001.



2023 compiled by Margaret Morgan

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For more information on other notable people of the district contact

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<https://www.yankalilladistricthistory.org.au/>