

People of the Yankalilla District



*Skinner headstone
Christ Church cemetery*



*Lucy Skinner Page c1900
SLSA B64201-68*

Skinner Family

Thomas SKINNER (c1822 - 1902)

Married: Mary Jane UNDERDOWN (c 1822 - 1907)

Arrived in Yankalilla district: c1857

Settled at: Yankalilla

Occupation: blacksmith

Buried: Christ Church Cemetery

Children of Thomas and Mary

William Thomas (1845 – 1929)

Julia Agnes Fanny SHEPHERD (1851 -1917)

Rosa (1854 - 1854)

Stillborn daughter (1857)

Louisa Harriet Ellen FORBES (1858 - 1888)

Jemima Elizabeth Mary (1860-1861)

William Thomas SKINNER (1845 - 1929)

Married: (1) Eliza NIXON (1851 - 1902)

(2) Sarah BUTTON (c1862 - 1942)

Arrived in Yankalilla district: c1857

Settled at: Yankalilla

Occupation: blacksmith

Buried: Yankalilla Cemetery

Children of William and Eliza

Mary Eliza Jane (1869 - 1869)

Lucy Eleanor PAGE (1870 - 1960)

Thomas Nixon (1872 - 1960) m Philippa PRESCOTT

William Henry (1873 - 1874)

Rose Mary (1875 - 1876)

Maud Louise (1877 - 1884)

Robert (1878 - 1916)

Rebecca WEBB (1880 -)

Children of William and Sarah

Charlotte (1884 - 1884)

Gilbert - (1885 - 1966)

Beatrice FRANCIS (1887 - 1950)

Lloyd (1889 - 1968) m Eleanor NORMAN

Archie (1891 - 1977)

Ruby (1894 - 1968)

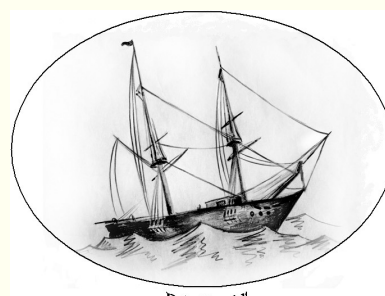
Hartley (1897 - 1976)

Stewart (1902 - 1921)

Thomas and Mary Skinner arrived in SA with their two children on the Ostrich in 1854, having lost a daughter who was born and died at sea. The family lived for a while in Adelaide and then Wattle Flat before settling at Yankalilla. Thomas set up his blacksmith business (at what is now 72 Main St Yankalilla), while Mary acted as the local midwife. Mary herself was no stranger to the joys and griefs associated with childbirth. She and Thomas had a total of six babies but only three survived to adulthood. Their daughter Louisa died at the young age of 30 years. She married Charles Forbes, storekeeper at Yankalilla, and they were living at that time near Christ Church Yankalilla. Louisa was baking for the church fete when a spark from the fire caught her dress alight, and she was so severely burned that she died. She was buried in Christ Church cemetery, and when Thomas and Mary died they were buried there alongside their daughter.

William Thomas Skinner followed his father in the blacksmith trade. He married Eliza Nixon in 1868 and they had six children between 1869 and 1877. Three of these died young, and were buried in the Yankalilla cemetery (unmarked graves). Their eldest surviving daughter later married George Page of Myponga, and she donated the land for the Nixon Skinner Reserve. About 1877 the family moved to New South Wales. Lucy Page later related the story that while there her father shod the hooves of Ned Kelly's horse and invited him to lunch, not knowing who he was. Two more children were born in New South Wales. One of these, Robert, went on to serve in the Boer War and the First World War and was killed in action in France in 1916.

William Skinner returned to Yankalilla about 1881 with his children but without his wife. She died in New South Wales in 1902 in the Hospital for the insane at Parramatta. William struck up a relationship with Sarah Button and they had a total of eight children. The first only lived for seven weeks, and she was buried in Yankalilla cemetery alongside her half brother and sisters. William and Sarah were married in 1902 after the death of William's first wife. William died in 1929 aged 85 years and was buried in Yankalilla Cemetery, but his grave is unmarked.



2022 compiled by Margaret Morgan

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