

# People of the Yankalilla District



## Isaac HURRELL (1806 - 1874)

**Married:** Maria PAYNE neé MABBET (1818 -1883)

**Arrived** in Yankalilla district: by 1863

**Settled at:** Inman Valley

**Occupation:** farmer

**Buried:** Inman Valley Bible Christian Cemetery

### *Children:*

Isaac (1845 - 1923) m Lydia COOTES

Maria (1847 - 1849)

Mary (1849 - 1909) m Robert Thomas SWEETMAN

John (1852 - 1852)

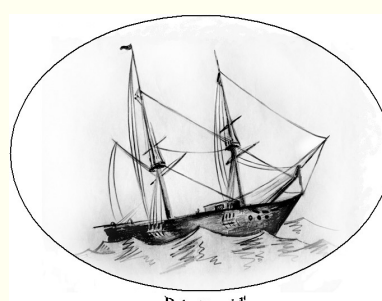
**Isaac Hurrell** was born in 1808 in Barford, Norfolk, the eighth child of James and Mary Hurrell. James died when Isaac was only four years old. As a young man, Isaac worked as a shepherd. On 28 December 1830, Isaac damaged a threshing machine, which brought him before the court. He was tried on 5 January 1831 at Norwich Castle and sentenced to seven years' hard labour in Van Diemen's Land.

In August 1831 he arrived in Hobart Town aboard the *Proteus* and was assigned to land-owner John Hunt Butcher. He and Butcher had a tempestuous relationship, which led to Isaac being charged with insubordination on a number of occasions. This resulted in lashings or time on the chain gang. By 1834, he was working at Ross for Captain Samuel Horton, and served the rest of his penal sentence without major incident.

When pardoned, Isaac sailed to South Australia on the *Hartley*. He arrived at Port Adelaide in January 1838 and soon found work as a carter. By 1844, he was able to make his first land purchase at Mitcham. On 20 April 1846, he married a widow, Maria Payne (née Mabbet) and their first child, Isaac, was born in 1845.

The Hurrell family subsequently moved to Inman Valley, where he established his property 'Norwich Farm'. Isaac gradually accumulated more land. In 1870, he bought Section 269 Inman Valley and then transferred part of it to the Bible Christian Church. The existing chapel at Bald Hills was demolished and the stone used to build the new Inman Valley chapel. The opening took place in 1871 when Serena Thorne preached to an overflowing congregation.

Having made the transition from convict to respected pioneer, Isaac died on 7 March 1874, aged 68 years. He is buried in the graveyard behind the church he had helped to establish. His headstone bears the inscription, '*the Lord knoweth the secrets of the heart.*'



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](mailto:yank.hist.soc@gmail.com)