

People of the Yankalilla District



Grave of William and Martha Yankalilla Cemetery

William NOSWORTHY (c1811 – 1872)

Married: Jane DREW (c1805 – 1879)

Arrived in Yankalilla district: 1852

Settled at: Bald Hills

Occupation: farmer

Buried: Bible Christian Cemetery, Torrens Vale

Children:

William George (1837 - 1912) m Martha Jane TREASURE

George Drew (1838 - 1907) m Grace DUFTY

Elizabeth Drew (1841 - 1846)

John (1844 - 1928) m Kathleen GARDNER

Elizabeth Jane GARDNER (1846 - 1915)

William and Jane Nosworthy arrived in South Australia on the *Princess Royal* in 1847 with their four children. Another daughter (Elizabeth Drew) had died in England before they left. They lived for a time at Mount Barker, but came to Bald Hills about 1852, where William had acquired sections 357, 373, and 384 in late 1851. He was active in public affairs (including serving on Yankalilla Council) and a staunch supporter of the Bible Christian cause. The first church at Bald Hills was built on his land (section 373) in 1859. William Nosworthy died in 1872 at the age of 61 years.

Most of William and Jane's children left the district but **William George Nosworthy**, their eldest son, remained and eventually took over his father's property. Like his father, William George was active in public affairs and a religious man. His obituary in the *Australian Christian Commonwealth* (2-2-1912) stated "... When seventeen years of age he was converted in a cottage on the site of the present Dairy Flat Church". When the new church was built both he and his father were both appointed trustees. William George acted as a local preacher for the Bible Christian Church almost up to the time of his death.

In 1874 William George married Martha Jane Treasure at the Bible Christian Church at Parkfield, Dairy Flat. Martha was the daughter of Emmanuel and Anne Treasure who lived near the church. William George and Martha went on to have eleven children (one dying in infancy).

When wheat growing in the area declined, the family turned to dairying. Martha often won prizes at Agricultural Shows for her butter. William took an interest in the Show at Yankalilla. In 1881 "Mr W. Nosworthy and Mr J. Tonkin asked Council to assist them in matter of holding an agricultural show in district." [*Adelaide Observer* 22-10-1881]. Although Council declined to assist, in July the following year the new "Yankalilla, Rapid Bay, and Myponga Agricultural and Horticultural Society" was formally established. F.M.Graham was elected as the first President and James Mayfield and William Nosworthy were elected as Vice-Presidents, a position William held for many years. The first Show was held on 23 November 1882. William George Nosworthy died on 8 January 1912 and was buried in Yankalilla cemetery. His obituary in the *Chronicle* newspaper described him as "one of the most prominent men in public affairs in Yankalilla" [*Chronicle* 10-2-1912].



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