

People of the Yankalilla District



Charles William MORSE and Juliet MORSE

Charles William Morse (1831 - 1901)

Married: Juliet GILBERT (1840 - 1926)

Arrived in Yankalilla district: 1869

Settled at: Yankalilla

Occupation: clergyman

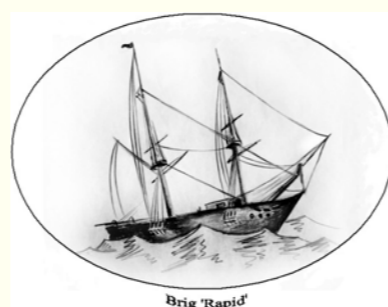
**Buried: both buried at Christ Church
Cemetery Yankalilla**

No Issue



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Charles William Morse was born in England. He attended Queen's College, Cambridge University, where he gained his BA in 1851. He spent part of his early life at sea, and after coming to Australia, was involved in the endeavour to open up land north of Adelaide, having reputedly been shearers' cook and manager of stores on Joseph Gilbert's property at Pewsey Vale. Here he met Juliet, daughter of William Gilbert of Wongolere.

Morse is credited with having some medical knowledge, and is said to have saved many lives during a fever epidemic at Yankalilla in the early 1870s, when there was no resident doctor. He was ordained a deacon in 1868, and a priest in December 1869, and was appointed to the Yankalilla parish. Over the years he held many positions in the church, including Archdeacon of Adelaide (1887-1901), and he is generally remembered as Archdeacon Morse.

Morse had a number of areas besides Yankalilla under his care, including Delamere, Inman Valley, and Myponga, and from time to time he also went across to Kangaroo Island. He was a very conscientious and active clergyman. One of his first actions after arriving in the district was to establish the Christ Church Day School. Another early initiative was the building of a church at Delamere. He instigated a meeting on 22 February 1869 to discuss the matter, and in April 1870 the decision to build a church was approved. St James' Delamere was dedicated by Bishop Short on 4 May 1871. Morse also set up Christ Church cemetery, which was dedicated in 1873, and during his 33 year incumbency oversaw many improvements to Christ Church.

Throughout her long life, **Juliet Morse** was an active and committed member of the Anglican Church. As a young woman she was a Sunday school teacher and organist at St Peter's, Williamstown. After her marriage she dutifully supported her husband's work at Yankalilla. In the early years of the day school she gave music lessons to the children. After the death of Archdeacon Morse, Juliet (by this time generally referred to as Ma'am Morse) stayed on at Yankalilla, living in Flagstaff Cottage, establishing and tending its garden. She continued to take an active role in parish life, serving on the parish council and reorganizing the Sunday school. In 1923 Juliet had an accident which forced her to move to Victor Harbor for medical care. She died at Victor Harbor on 16 July 1926, at the age of eighty six years.