

People of the Yankalilla District



Old Victor Harbor residents photographed in the tram shed on Granite Island, Victor Harbor. Back row (left to right): Alexander Bacchus, Sam Coobe, William Smith, Henry Welch, J.J. Crossman, Stephen Gilbert, Thomas Parsons, William Battye, Jim Cakebread, William Depledge. Front row: Edwin Pearce, John Hart, John Cakebread, George Goodwin, **Robert Sweetman**, Robert Jagger, George Dormer, Hugh McDougall. SLSA B49319 1914

Robert Thomas SWEETMAN (1846 - 1943)

Married: Mary Hurrell (1849 - 1909)

Arrived Encounter Bay 1854

Settled at: Encounter Bay/Inman Valley

Occupation: farmer, shearer

Buried: Victor Harbor

Children:

Robert Isaac (1870 - 1955) m Harriet Rowley

Mary Maria (1872 - 1932) m Walter MILLARD

John Edward (1874 - 1950) m Emma Baxter

William Isaac (1876 - 1955) m Eva Pitkin

James (1878 - 1974) m Lily Stanley

Fred (1880 - 1970)

Ada (1882 - 1915) Nurse

Alfred (1884 - 1940) m Amy Brown

Olive (1890 - 1949) m Lawrence JOY

Robert Sweetman, the son of Irish couple James and Anne Sweetman who came to South Australia on the ship *William Nichol* in 1840, was born in Marion and with his parents, settled in Encounter Bay in 1854.

Robert worked on the ironwork of the first Victor Harbor jetty.

Mary Hurrell, born at Mitcham, came to Inman valley in 1853 with her family. Mary and Robert married in 1869 and settled at Inman Valley. They raised a family of nine children, all educated in the local school along with their ten Hurrell cousins.

Robert and Mary farmed the land which she had inherited under the terms of Isaac Hurrell Senior's will. They conducted the Post Office from 1881 to 1883 and were active in church affairs. During their lifetime, Section 269 was resurveyed into smaller holdings and became the country village of Inman Valley.

Mary lent a portion of her land along the Inman River to the community for annual Christmas Eve sporting events.

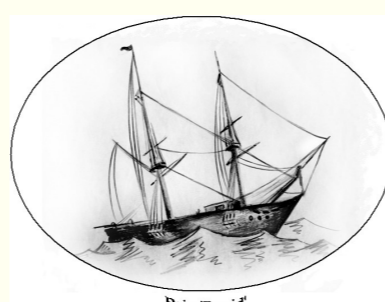
Mary died in 1909 and is buried in the Uniting Church (formerly Bible Christian) Cemetery Inman Valley along with many of the Hurrell family.

After Mary's death Robert Sweetman retired to Franklin Parade at Yilki, Encounter Bay, where he was on the Encounter Bay council for 23 years. He was keen to relate stories of the whaling industry in his early days there, as related in newspaper articles.

Robert died in 1933 and is buried in the Victor Harbor Cemetery with his second wife Mary Jane Sweetman.



Robert Sweetman on buggy To Find The Way p287



2024 compiled by Trevor Chilman

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For more information on other notable people of the district

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