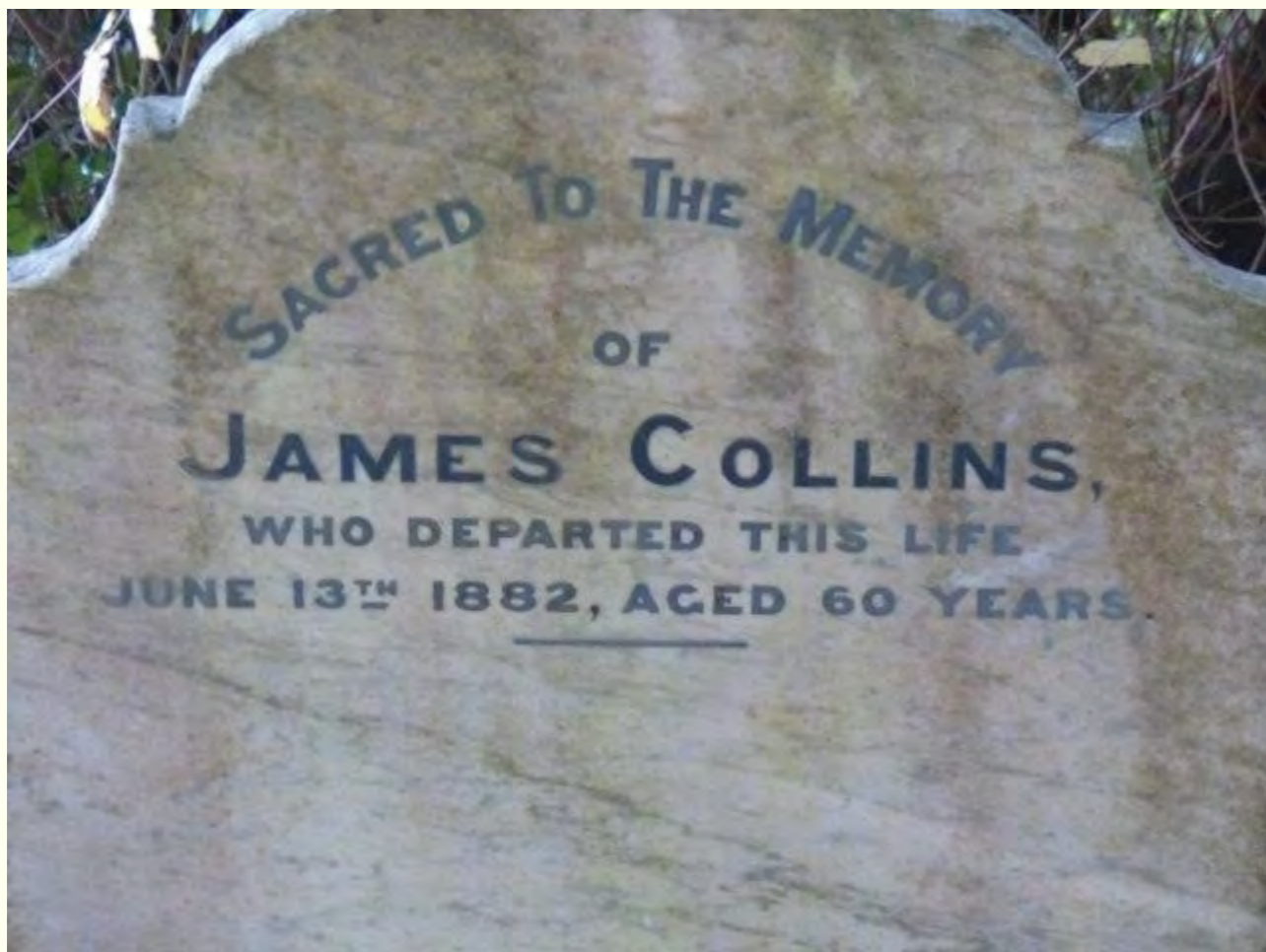


People of the Yankalilla District



James COLLINS (1823 - 1882)

Married:

Elizabeth CHANDLER (1826 - 1907)

Arrived in Yankalilla district: 1850

Settled at: Delamere

Occupation: farmer

Buried: St James Cemetery

Children of James and Elizabeth:

Charles William (1846 - 1932) m Emily WILLISS

Harriet (1847 -) m James Henry WARD

Teresa (1850 - 1928) m Francis PARLOR

Edward James (1851 -)

Harriet (1853 - 1922)

Reuben (1854 - 1908) m Emma BENKENSTEIN

Frederick 1856 - 1923) m Catherine KELLY

Alexander Blucher (1857 - 1894) m Sarah PADGET

Henry (1859 - 1887)

Emma (1861 -)

Richard (1863 -)

George (1865 - 1918)

Eliza (1867 - 1934) m John Blondel SIMON

James (1869 - 1943) m Alvina Maltilda HUPPATZ

James Collins was born 4-3-1823 in Hereford England. At the age of fifteen, he arrived in South Australia on the *Rapid*, on its second voyage in 1838. He worked as a labourer in John McLaren's survey team.

In 1845 he married Elizabeth Chandler, daughter of Charles and Elizabeth Chandler, in Holy Trinity, Adelaide. James and Elizabeth lived near Clarendon for a few years, before moving to the Delamere area where they settled on Section 1500.

An article in the *Register* newspaper confirms that Collins was in the district by 1851: "*The first place we came to was a small farm, a freehold of Mr Collins, whose wheat looked well; a good stone house was almost finished, and the enclosure well fenced with post and rail*" [*Register* 25-4-1851].

Collins was not a well-educated man – in fact, he was illiterate, signing documents with his mark rather than a signature. However, he seems to have been quite successful. After starting out as a labourer, he took up farming at Delamere and after a few years owned multiple sections.

In 1867 he donated land for the building of a school. In 1870 he offered land for a church (St James), but a similar offer by James Cole was accepted instead. In 1882 (after his death) another portion of his land was transferred to trustees for the building of a hall for St James church.

When he died, his obituary stated:

one of our oldest and most esteemed residents has passed away in the person of Mr James Collins. The deceased gentleman was an old colonist, having arrived in South Australia ... about the year 1838. He came to reside in this district in 1850, and was for many years engaged in agricultural pursuits in which he was somewhat successful. But the seasons subsequently failing he took to sheep-farming for which his land seemed well adapted.... [SA Weekly Chronicle 24-6-1882]

Collins died on 13 June 1882 and was buried in St James cemetery.



2021 compiled by Margaret Morgan

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