

# People of the Yankalilla District



## Heathcote family

**John HEATHCOTE** (c1801 - 1887)

Married: Mary FARRAR (c1805 - 1878)

Arrived in Yankalilla district: 1856

Settled at: Yankalilla

Occupation: inspector of factories, farmer, J.P.

Buried: Yankalilla cemetery

*Children of John and Mary*

John Wordsworth (1825 - 1886)

George Frederick (1826 - 1850)

Jane MATHER (c1829 - )

Lydia ALGER (1830 - 1897)

**John Wordsworth HEATHCOTE** (1825 - 1886)

Married: Frances KEMMIS (1842 - )

Arrived in Yankalilla district: c 1850

Settled at: Yankalilla

Occupation: storekeeper

Buried: Adelaide

*No children*

**John Edwards HEATHCOTE** (c1848 - 1930)

nephew of John Heathcote

Married: Jane Marshall CORNISH (c1853 - 1934)

Arrived in Yankalilla district: by 1872

Settled at: Myponga, Normanville

Occupation: farmer, storekeeper

Buried: Yankalilla cemetery

*Children of John Edwards and Jane Marshall*

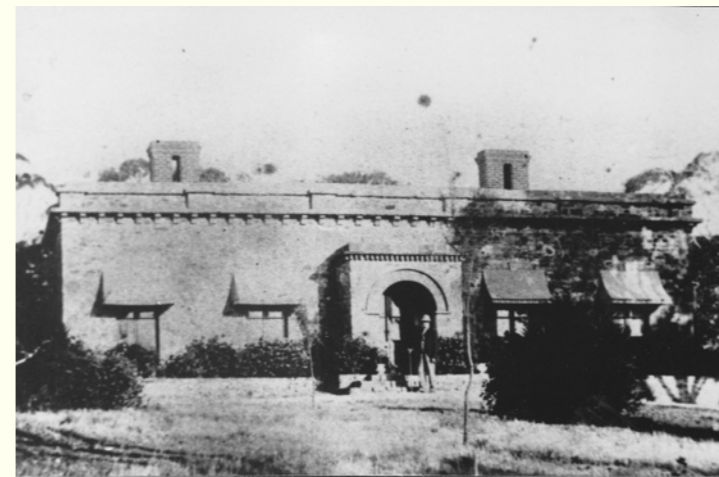
Ellen Louisa Jane FORBES (1882 - 1968)

Rosina Elizabeth (1885 - 1963)

John Gilbert (1889 - 1956)

George Marshall (1891 - 1960)

**John HEATHCOTE**, wife and family arrived in South Australia in 1845 on the *Augustus*. They lived in the Tavistock Building in Rundle St Adelaide, and Heathcote was employed by the government as an inspector of factories. However, it was not long before he began acquiring land in the Myponga and Yankalilla districts, and his two sons moved down to the area to look after his interests. The Government Gazette for 1850 credits him with approximately 1300 acres, and by 1856 the Yankalilla Rate Assessment book records him as owning nearly 2000 acres and 26 sections. This land was referred to in the early days as "Heathcote's Station". In 1856 he retired from his government position and came down to Yankalilla, where he lived at Manna Farm (owned at that time by his son John Wordsworth Heathcote). In that year he also became a Justice of the Peace, and subsequently presided over numerous court cases. He and his wife were parishioners of Christ Church Yankalilla, and Heathcote was a lay preacher there. His wife Mary died in 1878. John died after a short illness in 1887 aged 86 years.



*Manna Farm*

**John Wordsworth HEATHCOTE** was living in the Yankalilla district by 1851, possibly living with the Kemmis family at Manna Farm, which he bought from Kemmis in 1854, (he later married Kemmis' daughter) or somewhere else on his father's property. He succeeded his brother George (who died in 1850) as postmaster for Yankalilla and by 1855 was also operating a store. In 1856 he bought an allotment on section 1172 and had a wooden store there, which by 1858 he had improved into a stone store (later the first post office on the present post office site). He operated the store in partnership with his brother-in-law Charles Mather. Heathcote and Mather also bought Charles Dinham's store at Normanville in 1859. In 1861 Heathcote ceased being postmaster and the post office at Yankalilla was transferred to Foale's store on the opposite side of the road, and three years later he sold the Yankalilla store to William Sanders. Heathcote and Mather also sold the Normanville store to Alfred Limbert. In 1867 the Heathcote and Mather families left Yankalilla for Fowler's Bay where they had purchased a run. Heathcote junior transferred Manna Farm to his father at that time. He died in Adelaide in 1886.

**John Edwards HEATHCOTE** was born in England and came out to South Australia and down to the Yankalilla district to be with his uncle and cousin. He married Jane Marshall Cornish (daughter of John Cornish, miller at Normanville) in 1881, and they lived at Myponga for a short time. The Cornish family at that time owned the Normanville store (which had formerly been owned by JE Heathcote's cousin), and after returning to Normanville Heathcote helped run the store. Heathcote was a parishioner of Christ Church Yankalilla, where he was a warden. He was also a great supporter of the Show Society at Yankalilla. He served as secretary and treasurer for many years and was regularly praised in the press for his efficiency and hard work on behalf of the Society. The newspaper report of the meeting at which he resigned these positions stated:

*Eulogistic references were made to the way in which the resigning secretary had always carried out his work. The position, owing to the poor financial position of the society, had of recent years been most onerous, yet Mr Heathcote by dint of hard work and judicious expenditure had contrived to keep the society briskly moving. Mr. Heathcote had held the position for nineteen years.*

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

