

People of the Yankalilla District



Memorial plaque Yankalilla cemetery

Lucy EAT (née CAVE) (1811 - 1869)

Married: Isaac EAT (1807 – 1852)

Arrived in Yankalilla district: c1850

Settled at: Myponga, and then Yankalilla

Occupation: farmer

Buried: Yankalilla cemetery

Children:

Elizabeth WRIGHT (1830-)

Charlotte GILPIN (1832-)

Maria BAXTER (1834-)

Jacob (1836-1847)

William (1839-)

Benjamin (1840-1840)

Reuben (1842-1932)

Susan FRANCIS LANGFORD (1843-)

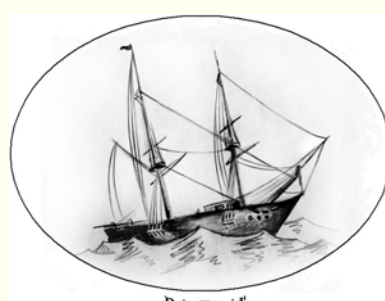
Rebecca JACKSON (1845-1936)

John (1846-1919)

Thomas (1848-1926)

Jonathon (1849-1932)

James (1853-1900)



Lucy Eat (née Cave) was born in Cambridgeshire England about 1812. On 17 August 1829 she married Isaac Eat. Over the next 16 years they had seven children, one of whom (Benjamin) died as an infant. In 1846 the family left England on the Canton for the new colony of South Australia and arrived at Port Adelaide on 31 July 1846. Later that year their son John was born, and in the following year they experienced both joy and sorrow, with the marriage of their eldest daughter Elizabeth and the death of their 12 year old son Jacob. Two more sons were born in 1848 (Thomas) and 1849 (Jonathon), and two daughters were married in 1849 (Charlotte) and 1851 (Maria).

By that time they were probably living in the Myponga area. However, the gold fields of Victoria beckoned with the promise of providing a better living for the large and still growing family, and like many other South Australians, Isaac set off to Victoria. With him went his wife Lucy, and probably six of their children, ranging in age from about 12 years to 2 years. But the search for a fortune ended in disaster for Lucy, for her husband died at the Bendigo gold fields, probably in 1852. Lucy was then pregnant with her last child, James, and she decided to return to South Australia. It is said that “the bereaved Lucy, heavy with child, gathered her family, her little capital and two teams of bullocks, and trekked back to Myponga”.

Once back in the Yankalilla district, Lucy spent some of her money to acquire land. In July 1852 she purchased a land grant for section 482, 81 acres, on the hill just north of Yankalilla and lived at first in a “mud hut” before later building a more substantial house.

In the early 1860s she sold over half her land to John Wordsworth Heathcote, keeping about 33 acres for herself, her daughter and son-in-law Elizabeth and Isaac Wright, and son Reuben Eat. Lucy Eat died on 30 October 1869.

2020 compiled by Margaret Morgan

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