

People of the Yankalilla District



Day's Cottage Torrens Vale

George Fowler DAY (1821 - 1901)

Married: Eliza WAY (1830 – 1919)

Arrived in Yankalilla district: 1851

Settled at: Torrens Vale

Occupation: farmer

Buried: Payneham cemetery, Adelaide

Children:

George Albert (1853 – 1931)

Walter William (1854 – 1887)

Emma Ethel BRADDOCK (1855 – ?)

Frances Hannah (1857 – 1857)

Frederick (1858 – 1940)

Florence Matilda CATE (1860 – ?)

Albert Sydney (1862 – 1915)

Edwin Victor (1864 – 1935)

Arthur Herbert (1866 – 1908)

Alfred Norwood (1868 – 1939)

Spencer Fowler ((1871 – 1958)

George Fowler Day arrived in Australia at Port Phillip Bay on Christmas Eve 1842. By 1845 he was in South Australia, and by the early 1850s had acquired a number of sections of land at Bald Hills and Dairy Flat (now Torrens Vale) in the Yankalilla district.

He married Eliza Way on 31 July 1851 and they settled on their farm at Torrens Vale, in a small cottage called Ansley Farm, named in honour of George's family village in Warwickshire. This is the old cottage near the corner of Torrens Vale Rd, now known as "Day's cottage". Later, as their family grew, Day built a substantial house a short distance away, which he called Alton Grange after a manor house ten miles from the village of Ansley. Alton Grange, on the Inman Valley Rd, still stands and is occupied by the present owner of what was Day's farm. Eliza and George Day had a total of eleven children, nine of whom were born at Torrens Vale.

Day was an active member of the community. He was one of the five Councillors elected to the first Yankalilla Council in 1854, and in later years he acted as auditor for the Council. He contributed to the discussion on the route of the main road between Yankalilla and Encounter Bay (which went through his property), and also sought advice on an alternative crop to wheat when the wheat yields began to decline in the late 1860s, investigating the cultivation of lucerne. Day was also running sheep on his property as well as growing wheat.

A court case in 1866 involving Day and neighbour John Gardner gives us the information that Day was grazing 100 sheep on the Government Reserve at Cockatoo Flat.

After about 15 years in the district George Fowler Day gave up farming and moved his family to Adelaide. His farm was sold to Elijah Lovelock in June 1867.



2020 compiled by Margaret Morgan

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For more information on other notable people of the district contact
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