

People of the Yankalilla District



Butterworth Mill circa 1860s

Butterworth Brothers

Eli BUTTERWORTH (1828 - 1886)

Married: Sarah LEONARD (1830 - 1896)

Arrived in Yankalilla district: 1856

Settled at: Yankalilla

Occupation: miller

Buried: Christ Church Cemetery

John BUTTERWORTH (1824 - 1900)

Married: Isabella MACMILLAN (1824 - 1908)

Arrived in Yankalilla district: c1863

Settled at: Normanville

Occupation: miller

Buried: Yankalilla Cemetery

Children of Eli and Sarah

Emma Alice OLIVER (1853 - 1934)

Walter Joseph (1855 - 1939)

Alfred (1857 -)

Mary SHUTTLEWORTH (1860 - 1904)

Kate HERBERT (1862 - 1938)

William (1864 - 1944)

Ellen GRABB (1867 -)

Jane (1868 - 1868)

Frederick Broadbent (1871 - 1959) m Grace BRYANT

Children of John and Isabella

Joseph (1851 - 1910) m Jane Evangeline BOLLEN

Annabella Stewart GRAHAM (1853 - 1894)

George (1856 - 1939) m Minna LOUTIT

John (1859 - 1876)

Stewart (1863 -)

Robert (1865 - 1922) m Kate RALPH

Ailcie Kate MACMILLAN (1869 - 1923)

Brothers John and Eli Butterworth came to South Australia on the *Baboo* in 1840 with their parents, Joseph and Alice. Joseph was a miller and he established a mill at Aldinga. A number of his sons later set up mills in various parts of the colony. John and Eli came south and, operating in partnership, built a flour mill at Yankalilla and a grain store at Normanville.

The land for both the mill and the grain store was bought by the brothers in 1856. Eli came down to the district probably in that year with his wife (sister of the Leonard brothers, who later built the mill at Second Valley) and two children, and lived at first in a cottage near the mill. In 1860 the Butterworths bought the land and house adjacent to the mill. The house was subsequently enlarged and Eli and his growing family moved into it about 1866. This house became known as "Bungala House". When Eli died in 1886 Bungala house was sold to Harry Graham for the use of his brother Fred Malcolm Graham, who married John Butterworth's daughter Annabella.

John Butterworth and his family came into the district later than Eli's family. They lived for a time at Salt Creek, but then in 1863 the Butterworth brothers acquired the land and house next to the grain store at Normanville. This house too was enlarged, and John and his family moved there about 1864. John's house was referred to as the "Beach House" but is now known as "Yankalilla Bay Homestead". John Butterworth was active in local affairs – he was a Justice of the Peace, he served on the District Council (Chairman 1865 -1869), and was President of the Show Society from 1883 to 1899.

During the wheat era the Butterworth's business flourished. A newspaper report of 1862 stated:

The wheat is coming in freely to the mills just now. On Saturday not fewer than 23 drays were standing at one time at the mill of Messrs. Butterworth. [Register 21-2-1862.]

In the following year they were able to purchase their own ketch, the *Centaur*, to take their flour to Adelaide and to Melbourne. John, who became the sole owner of the Butterworth property on the death of his brother in 1886, sold it to his son-in-law George Harris MacMillan in 1893.



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