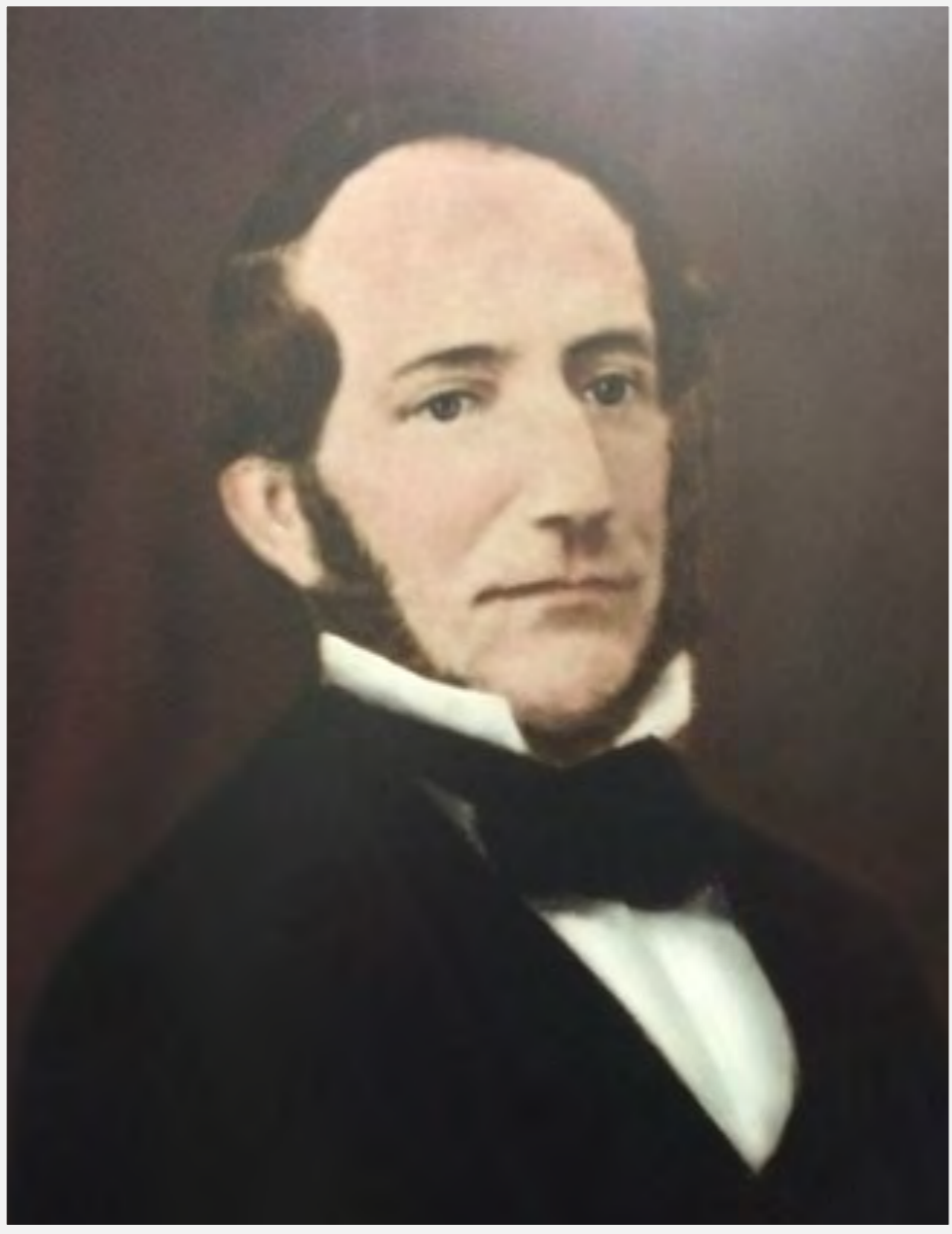


People of the Yankalilla District



Henry KEMMIS (1812-1894)

Married

1. Mary Dodd (c1807-1848)
2. Isabella Daghish (c1829-)

Arrived in Yankalilla district: 1842

Settled at: Yankalilla

Occupation: farmer, teacher

Buried: Port Macquarie NSW

Children of Henry and Mary

Henry (1833-)
Emily SCOTT (1834-)
Louisa SCOTT (1836-1895)
George (1837-)
Arthur (1838-1840)
William (1839-1840)
Mary Aphasia DAVIS (1841-)
Frances HEATHCOTE (1842-)
Laura (1844-1844)

Children of Henry and Isabella

Arthur (1851-1899)
William (1853-1854)
Harriet Alma (1854-)
William Henry (1856-1941)
Mary (1858-)
Elizabeth Ruth 1 (1860-1862)
Elizabeth Ruth 2 (1862-)
John Thomas (1865-1877)
Edith (1866-)
Charles Edward (1869-1950)
Annie May HEATHCOTE (1872-)

Henry Kemmis was the first person to take up land at Yankalilla, selecting sections 1182 and 1181 in 1841 and 1842. Henry Kemmis was born in Ireland of landed gentry and came out to South Australia with his wife and five children in 1839. Kemmis's memoir states: "I took out a lot of decent labourers and two women servants". They lived for a while in Adelaide, where one of their children died, and moved to Yankalilla in 1842.

In his memoir Kemmis wrote: "We settled down to a bush life. Rearing cattle, sheep and entering into agriculture as well, but originally the former."

The family lived at first in a Manning house, a prefabricated wooden house transported from England, but Kemmis soon began building a solid home of sandstone and brick, which was described by a visitor to Yankalilla in 1851:

[Kemmis] was erecting a substantial stone house on his estate: it was as yet unfinished and in part unroofed, but appeared to be well built. A hill near this place is known as 'Kemmis Hill'. S.A. Register 16-4-1851

The house was completed by the second owner, Kemmis' son-in-law, John Wordsworth Heathcote. It was named Manna Farm, after the abundance of Manna gums that grew in the vicinity.

Kemmis' wife, Mary, died in 1848. They had been married for sixteen years and had nine children, three of whom died young.

Henry Kemmis remarried in March 1851, to Isabella Daghish. This marriage produced a further 11 children. He and his wife left Yankalilla about 1852 and went to Adelaide, then Tasmania, where Kemmis ran Campbelltown Grammar School. Later he went to Warrnambool to run a school there. Finally, he moved to Bathurst, NSW, where in conjunction with the Anglican Bishop of Bathurst he founded and was first headmaster of All Saints College. Kemmis died in 1894 at Port Macquarie NSW.



2020 compiled by Margaret Morgan
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