

Foreword

I started research of our family in 1977. I have travelled to many places and visited a lot of relatives that I had never met.

What is printed in these pages is a memorial to those who have gone before us, and its contents are a heritage to us and the descendants not yet born. Every care has been taken to avoid errors and omissions and to be as accurate as possible in recording dates and the spelling of names.

Any mistakes here-in are not intentional. One thing I have found most confusing is the number of time the same names have been used and spelt in different ways.

In July 1978 I met a lady who was then 96 years of age. She was the wife of Waldemar Alexander Boettcher, a cousin of my fathers. When she married in 1909 she was told that three brothers left Germany about the same time. One went to England and later came to Australia and settled in the Mitcham district and one went to America and came on to Australia and settled in the Fulham district. I have not traced this report but from information I have obtained during my travels, and stories my father told me years ago, he knew some of these people and had visited them when he was a young man, so I have no reason to doubt her story.

In 1909 Johann Gottfried Boettcher and family came to Kangaroo Island and settled at Birchmore Lagoon. They only stayed two years. A daughter was Mrs Frank Diment who lived at American River during 1950s and 60s. They may have been a distant relative because they lived not far from our ancestors at Shea-oak Log, South Australia, and he was the same age as my grandfather.

COLIN ROY BOETTCHER
January 1996

JOHANN WILHELM BOETTCHER

With his wife Louise (nee Schlunke), one daughter and three sons, Wilhelm came from Tuckheim in Germany. They left Hamburg on the 25th September 1853, and arrived in South Australia on 2nd January 1854 with the ship *Caesar Godfrey*.

After only three weeks at sea Louise died from seasickness and was buried at sea. When the ship returned to Germany, Wilhelm sent a letter back with the ships master informing her family that she had died. Sometime later her family came to South Australia and Wilhelm married his wife's younger sister, Henrietta, and they had three sons.

They apparently moved around several places and finally settled at Shea-oak Log, while the Schlunke family settled at Shea-oak Log and Tanunda.

The first wife's children were:

1. A. Boettcher known as Gus, born in 1844, he was a bachelor. The only information I have is from my father who told me he visited him in 1918 when he was living in Herbert St, Croydon. He was a poultry farmer. I have not been able to find his burial records.
2. Maria Fredericke Louise Boettcher (only daughter), born 1845. At the age of 18 she married Johann Frederick Stein aged 21, at the Rosenthal Lutheran Church on 6th April 1864. They had 7 children:
 - 1) Maria Augusta, married August Wandel
 - 2) Adolf, went to NSW
 - 3) Mary, married Gustav Simmons
 - 4) Emma Stein, married Joseph Carson
 - 5) Carl Wilhelm Stein, went to NSW
 - 6) August Frederick Stein, married Anna Maria Roesler of Cockatoo Valley
 - 7) Bertha Alvera Stein, married George Mitchell Carson

3. Johann Frederick Wilhelm (Bill), born 1848, married Emma Bruhl. They had no children. They had a farm at Stockport, then Greenock. Both are buried in Greenock cemetery.

4. Johann Fridarich Boettcher (John), born 1851, married Martha Sophia Minna (Minna) Schulze at Blyth Plains on 21st February 1879. Their full story is in the following pages.

Children (3 sons) of second wife, Henrietta, were:

1. Carl Frederick Gustav, who later changed his name to August Gustav. At age 20 years he married Emilie Wilhelmine Weiss, aged 20 years, at the Evangelical Lutheran Church, Nuriootpa on 3rd February 1884. They had 6 children:

- 1) Herbert, married Emma Dickman
- 2) Gertrude, married Colin Turner (founder of Turner's Meats)
- 3) Waldemar, married Myrtle May Vesty
- 4) Gilbert, married Stella Brett
- 5) Vera, married Horrie Read
- 6) Mona, married Horrie Houghton

2. August. I had never heard anything about August until I met up with Myrtle, the 96 year old lady I have mentioned previously. She told me that he was a bachelor and had been a miner for most of his life. He was living at Mylor at the time of his death and is buried there.

3. Ted, who lived with his mother at Gawler. I have been unable to obtain his full name. He used to call on the Welke family at Klemzig, which is the last known contact. He spent some time on Kangaroo Island about 1918-19 working for Arthur Daw and helped pull down the "Faith" Cottage and carted materials out to Section 2008 Menzies. He erected a two room cottage there, commonly known as Melville's. He also cut leaf for Jim Bates at Emu Bay. His age when he died and his burial place have not been traced.

JOHANN FRIDARICK (John) BOETTCHER 1851- 1938

John arrived in South Australia aged 2 years with his father, one sister, and two brothers. His mother died at sea and his sister helped care for him. Little was told of his early life and the only story he ever told was that after his father had remarried and had three other children he was unable to live with his stepmother, so he ran away from home with only one halfpenny in his pocket and went to live with his sister who was married and living near Balaklava. What happened from those years until he married on 21st February 1879 was never told. He married Martha Sophia Minna Schulze, known as Minna, whose family lived at Rosedale only a short distance from where he grew up at Shea-oak Log.

From information I have collected it appears he bought Sections 262 and 264 Hundred of Blyth from the Hawker family. He built a house there with mud from the creek that flows from the Clare Hills called the Gap. He later moved to Section 472 Hundred of Hart where the family lived until they moved to Kangaroo Island in 1904.

They had ten children; the three eldest were born at Rosedale, and the others at Blyth Plains. His wife Minna died just two weeks before leaving Blyth.

MINNA BORN 1857-1904

At Cygnet River on Kangaroo Island he bought two sections of land from a Mr Hoskins. Section 24 was called the Homestead and Section 25 called the Cottage section. He had his meals with his children at the Homestead, but stayed by himself in the cottage for about thirty years, after which his youngest daughter moved in with him for his final days. He died on 11th November 1938 aged 87.

Martha Sophia Minna Boettcher nee Schulze died, aged 47, just two weeks before the family came to Kangaroo Island and is buried in Blyth cemetery. The family never talked about their mother after having to come to a new home without her; my father was only nine and a half years old, and Myrtle was just five and a half. To my knowledge no-one had been near the cemetery until I started research and I found her unmarked grave site, only a few years ago.

She had several brothers that had property in the Blyth district, and at the point of writing I have found only five of their descendants.

Copy of original Marriage Certificate

Johann Frederick Boettcher & Martha Sophia Minna Schulze

MY G/GRD/FTH

MY GREAT GRAND MOTHER

No.	Wife's Name	Place and Date of Birth	Age	Children	Residence at Date of Marriage	Place of Birth of Father	Place of Birth of Mother
1	Johann Frederick Boettcher	Blyth Plains, 1879	15	1	Blyth Plains	Germany	Germany
2	Martha Sophia Minna Schulze	Blyth Plains, 1879	12	1	Blyth Plains	Germany	Germany

This Marriage was solemnized at the residence of Johann Frederick Boettcher in the presence of M. L. Minna Schulze and A. B. Schulze by the Minister of the Gospel, J. H. Meyer.

Extract from above Marriage Certificate

1879 Married in the District of Blyth

Name	Residence at time of Marriage	Names of Fathers	Place celebrated
Johann Frederick Boettcher	Blyth Plains	Johann Wilhelm Boettcher	Lutheran Church at Blyth Plains
Martha Sophia Minna Schulze	Blyth Plains	Christian Schulze	Blyth Plains

In the presence of: J.F.W. Boettcher (Bill) Farmer Stockport
A.E.B. Schulze Farmer Blyth

Officiating Minister: J.H. Meyer

Date: Twenty first day of February 1879

LETTERS OF NATURALIZATION.

By virtue of "The Aliens Act, 1864," and of all other enabling powers, South Australia, with the advice and consent of The Executive Council, do hereby certify that Johann Frederick Boettcher, born at Blyth in Germany on the 15th day of February 1879, is a native of Germany and of the age of 15 years, and all the rights and capacities within the Province of South Australia of a natural born British subject which are capable of being granted by Letters of Naturalization.

Given under the hand of the Governor and the Public Seal of the said Province, at Adelaide, this Twenty first day of September, one thousand eight hundred and ninety four.

By command, J. H. Meyer Chief Secretary.

Copy of original Naturalization Certificate of Johann Frederick Boettcher

A story my Grandfather used to tell

GRT/GRD/FTH

He had quite a good farm at Blyth Plains, Section 472 Hundred of Hart.

The present owner told me only recently that he has had the farm for about thirty years and he paid £300 (\$600) per acre, while Grandfather sold out for only £5/7/6 (\$10.75) per acre. It is one of the best farms in the district, with the owner regularly harvesting thirty bags of wheat per acre.

Grandfather had trouble coping with the heat and suffered with a bleeding nose, and he used to have to lay under a shady tree while his wife drove the horses to take in their harvest.

They only had one 90 feet deep well to water the whole farm, from which the water had to be drawn up with the aid of a windlass.

He had heard that the place called Kangaroo Island was much cooler with a good rainfall, so he decided he would go over and have a look around. He stayed at the Queenscliffe Hotel at Kingscote for the night. The following morning he got up early, had a look around, and asked whether there was any land for sale. He was told a Mr Hoskins had land for sale at Cygnet River, so he walked out along the bush track until he came to this river. He was very surprised to see so much water. He had a drink of this lovely fresh water and decided then that he would like this place. He went to the house and spoke to Mr Hoskins and he agreed he would sell and a purchase was made on the spot. I never heard what the purchase price was.

	Born	Died	Age
Johann Frederick Boettcher (Known as John) GRT/GRD/FTH	1851	11.11.1938	87
Martha Sophia Minna, nee Schulze (Known as Minna) GRT/GRD/MTH	1857	13.5.1904	47
THEIR TEN CHILDREN:			
1. Anna Sophia, married Gustav Daniel Welke	14.11.1879	15.9.1963	84
	23.12.1862	8.3.1940	77
2. Minna Carolina, married Arthur Weatherspoon	7.11.1881	28.4.1965	84
	1882	26.8.1942	60
3. Johann Frederick, married Linda Charlotte May	9.11.1882	3.1.1941	58
	13.2.1891	21.6.1915	24
4. William August, married Christina Tilka	19.8.1884	2.8.1971	87
	1881	17.8.1963	82
5. Louise Bertha, married G. Adolf Tilka	27.1.1886	25.2.1983	97
NAME H.P. Murray GRT/GRD/MTH	1874	9.2.1929	54
	16.7.1882	4.1982	99 & 9 mths
6. Carl Alfred, married Ivy Edith May	17.8.1888	4.4.1967	78
	19.5.1892	8.3.1983	89
7. Hugo Edwin	11.4.1891	26.6.1916	25
8. Clara Elsie, married Charles Ernest May	24.3.1893	31.10.1966	73
	19.8.1898	23.9.1980	82
9. Ernest Herman, married Adelaide Millicent Chitgwin	17.11.1894	16.11.1991	97 (minus 1 day)
	21.5.1895	14.1.1977	81
10. Alwynne Myrtle, married Frank William May	2.11.1898	14.4.1977	78
	13.2.1913	12.10.43	30 (killed in action)

ANNA SOPHIA BOETTCHER 1879 - 1963

Anna Sophia Boettcher, the eldest child of John and Minna, was born at Rosedale, South Australia, on the 14th November 1879. When she was about five years old the family moved to a property near Blyth, South Australia. Her father worked on a farm for Mr Harmer. At the age of ten she went to school for two years at the Harmerville school which was north west of Blyth.

She was confirmed in the Blyth Lutheran Church by Pastor Niquet and married in the Condowie Lutheran Church by Pastor Sabel on 22 February 1900. When she married Daniel Welke, they lived in a small iron shack while working on her brother-in-law Julius Welke's farm at Condowie. While living there six children were born. In 1907 they bought a farm at Everard, nine miles west of Blyth on the Lochiel road. This farm was a sheep and grain property. Three more children were born on this farm. In 1921 the family moved to another sheep and grain growing property at Halbury, South Australia. Two more children were born here.

In 1936 the family discontinued farming and moved to Adelaide where the sons bought citrus and stone fruit blocks in Kelmzig. Over the years Anna looked after her family and worked extremely hard on their farms. Gardening was a major hobby of hers with everything planted meticulously in separate garden beds. Roses were her favourite flowers. Her grand-daughter, Melva Hall, remembers the huge shrubs in the front garden at Kelmzig where children could play cubby houses. It was also a treat to be given walnuts from the huge old trees. The cellar at Kelmzig was a favourite cool spot during the hot summer months.

Anna's last two years of life were spent in bed, nursed by her sons and daughter. She died on 15th September 1963 and was buried in the Athelstone Independent Cemetery.

Written by her Grand-daughter, Melva Hall, August 1994.

MINNA CAROLINA BOETTCHER (Lena) 1881 - 1965

Minna Carolina Boettcher, second daughter, known as Lena, was born at Rosedale, South Australia, on 7th November 1881 and was the second daughter of John and Minna. She attended the Harmerville school a few miles west of Blyth. Little more is known of her early life until she came to Kangaroo Island with her family in 1904.

In 1905 she married Arthur W. Weatherspoon and they lived and worked for Jimmy Marshall for a few years before moving to Duck Lagoon. Lena's brother Harry took down a house in Drew Street, Kingscote and rebuilt it for them at Duck Lagoon in about 1915 (only a guess). Their main living was from making eucalyptus oil, cows, and a few sheep.

Arthur died from a heart attack whilst crutching sheep on 26th August 1942, aged 60.

Lena stayed on at Duck Lagoon for several years before shifting to her home in Brownlow which she had acquired from her father's estate.

They had four sons; Sydney, Roy, George, and Perc; and two daughters; Millie and Mavis.

Lena died on 28th April 1965 aged 84. Both Lena and Arthur are buried in Kingscote Cemetery.

JOHANN FREDERICK (Fred) BOETTCHER 1882 - 1941

Johann Frederick (Fred) was the eldest son of John and Minna. He was born at Rosedale on 9th November 1882 and came to Kangaroo Island with his brother Alf in 1904, two weeks earlier than the rest of the family. I do not know what Fred did in his early years, nobody talked about him.

Fred married Linda Charlette May and they had one son named Bert. Linda died on 21st June 1915, only 24 years old.

Fred, with his son, left Kangaroo Island and moved to Wilmington. There he bought some land and remained for the rest of his life.

He died on the 3rd January 1941, aged 58 years, and is buried in the Wilmington Cemetery. There is a tombstone on his grave erected by his friends, probably from the proceeds of his farm.

Fred and Bert only returned to Kangaroo Island once, in 1929.

Bert was married, but I don't know where or when. He died on 4th August 1943, aged 30 years, and is buried at the Dudley Park Cemetery. Burial records show his home address was 27 Gurus Road, Beulah Park.

There is a photograph of Fred and Bert standing in front of a large building, possibly a school or a government office, taken around 1904. Fred is on the left, wearing a dark suit and a light-colored shirt with a tie. Bert is on the right, wearing a dark suit and a light-colored shirt with a tie. They are both looking towards the camera. The building behind them has a large arched entrance and several windows.

There is also a photograph of Fred and Bert standing in front of a large building, possibly a school or a government office, taken around 1904. Fred is on the left, wearing a dark suit and a light-colored shirt with a tie. Bert is on the right, wearing a dark suit and a light-colored shirt with a tie. They are both looking towards the camera. The building behind them has a large arched entrance and several windows.

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WILLIAM AUGUST BOETTCHER

Commonly known as "Gus", "Augie" or "The Boss"

He was the second son of John and Minna.

Born at Blyth Plains on 19th April, 1884, he went to the Harmerville and Hart schools, and came to Kangaroo Island with the family in May 1904 to the property his father had bought at Cygnet River, where he spent the rest of his life.

Gus being a young and very energetic man immediately set about working the small orchard that was already on the property. He planted more trees and started growing vegetables and very soon had a successful business in operation.

He started delivering his fruit and vegetables to Kingscote with a horse and cart they had brought with them from Blyth.

After brother Harry left school he worked for Gus for several years and as the business grew a two horse trolley van was purchased to cope with the extra produce for sale.



Gus, Bertha, Alf, Elsie, Harry, Myrtle, taken at Gus's 80th birthday party, April 1964

In 1915 Gus purchased a pump and transportable Blackstone engine and installed an overhead sprinkler system in the garden.

In 1921 Gus married Christina Tilka after a brief courtship of only about 14 years! Christina died on 17th August, 1963 at the age of 82 years. Gus and Christina had no children.

By this time Syd and Roy Weatherspoon had started working on the vans. Gus had bought his first Dodge motor van, and both the vans were used at peak times.

As years past Gus was always ready to buy more land, his garden got larger and general farming grew also, with brother Alf in charge of hay being grown for the horses and cattle.

He had a good team of horses as well as the garden horses.

Those days all the garden work was done with two horses with single furrow ploughs, and two horse cultivators. All the potatoes were planted by hand in the furrows, and had to be dug by hand with garden forks.

He grew most of Kangaroo Islands requirements of fruit and vegetables and used to send any surplus to Adelaide either for sale or to cold stores before he installed his own freezers.

All the gardening required a lot of manpower and Gus was the largest employer on Kangaroo Island (except the Salt Industry at Muston), and at times he had as many as seventeen people employed at picking and drying surplus fruit.

Somewhere during those past years he had bought another Dodge van and the horse van wasn't used.

He used to go to American River and Wisanger district one day a week, plus his several trips to Kingscote.

In 1938 a new Chevrolet van was purchased and the older Dodge vans were only used as required, and were retired from service in 1948 when the larger Austin van was purchased.

His gardens had become very widely known for the high quality fruit being grown on the Island.

In the early 1940's he purchased his first tractor and as the years rolled by more tractors were purchased, until eventually the horses were all phased out with potatoes being planted and dug with machines.

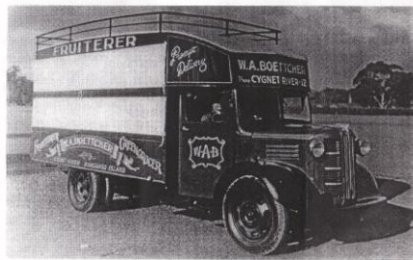
During the time he had built up quite a flock of Corriedale sheep, producing 80-100 bales of wool and fat lambs each year.

He had also built up a large herd of Guernsey milking cows which he had a great pride in.

During the whole time there had always been a piggery. The pigs were fed all the waste fruit, milk and vegetables.

For over sixty years his vans were in Kingscote every week until his death on the 2nd of August, 1971, at the age of 87 years. He had enjoyed good health until six months prior to his death, when he was diagnosed as having leukaemia.

Such a lot more could be written about this man and to those who knew him he was truly a legend of the past, as his orchards were a real oasis along the river and older people who now revisit Kangaroo Island cannot believe what has happened to the lovely orchards that used to be at Cygnet River.



W.A. Boettcher's Fruiterer & Greengrocer truck

LOUISE BERTHA BOETTCHER (Bertha) 1886 - 1983

Louise Bertha Boettcher, known as Bertha, was the third daughter of Minna and John. She was born at Blyth Plains on 27th January 1886, and went to the Harmerville and Hart schools. Little is known of her life before coming to Kangaroo Island with the family.

She married Gustav Adolf Tilka in the Pirie Street Methodist Church in Adelaide and they made their home on Section 9 Hundred of Menzies, which was known as Freemans, just east of Cygnet River airport.

They had three children, Edna Sylvia, Dudley and Roy (twins). Adolf had an accident and as a result died on 9th February 1929 and was buried in West Terrace Cemetery. Bertha had quite a struggle to survive, but her brother Gus helped her through those hard times.

After her father's death in 1938 she bought a house in Kingscote. In her later years she married an old family friend and they lived in Kingscote for a number of years before they moved to Glenelg for their remaining years. Bertha died on 25th February 1983, aged 97 years, and is buried beside Adolf in West Terrace Cemetery.

CARL ALFRED (Alf) BOETTCHER 1889 - 1967

Alf was the third son of John and Minna. He was born at Blyth on 17th August 1889 and went to Harmerville and Hart schools. He came to Kangaroo Island with his eldest brother Fred two weeks before the rest of the family arrived in May 1904. Little is known of his early years — I guess he would have worked in the garden like the rest of the family did.

In 1910 he married Ivy Edith May. They resided at Gum Creek for several years on the property he and his brother Harry leased from a NSW businessman named H.K. Knock. Alf and Ivy had three children there; Lil, Netta, and Victor.

In 1920 the family moved to Nairne for a few years, where Alf worked for a Mr J.C. Marshall. There he learned the value of top dressing the pastures with superphosphates, which at that time was rarely used on Kangaroo Island.

On his return to Kangaroo Island he took over the cropping and sheep management for his brother Gus, a position he held for the next thirty years. During this time he acquired a scrub block of land which he developed and where he built a new home. He sold out in 1960 after celebrating their Golden Wedding and moved to Adelaide where he bought a home in Nora Street, Mafylands.

He died on 4th April 1967, and is buried in the Athelstone Independent Cemetery. His wife Ivy died on 8th March 1983 and is buried in the same grave.

HUGO EDWIN BOETTCHER 1891 - 1916

Hugo Edwin, the fourth son of Minna and John, was born on 11th April 1891 at Blyth Plains and went to Hart school when that school opened in 1896. Being 13 years old when the family came to Kangaroo Island, I suppose he would have worked in the garden.

At the age of 21 he and his eighteen year old brother Harry pulled down the small homestead and built a larger new home for the family. That building remains there, still in rather good condition.

Hugo acquired Section 267 Hundred of Menzies, where he made a living with eucalyptus oil. He used salt water for his work, and when he boiled the pot dry and had to scrape the salt off, developed health problem. He went to Adelaide for treatment, but died there on 26th June 1916 at the age of 25. His tombstone can be found in the West Terrace Cemetery, South of Road 5, row 5E.

CLARA ELSIE BOETTCHER 1893 - 1966

Clara Elsie, known as Elsie, was the fourth daughter of John and Minna. She was born on 24th March 1893 at Blyth Plains, South Australia. Elsie attended the Hart School along with her brothers and sisters.

Little is known of her early life, it is thought that when most of the family came to Kangaroo Island in May 1904, Elsie remained with her sister Anna (who was married to Daniel Welke) and helped with Anna's babies, and later came to the Island and helped with her sister Minna Weatherspoon's children.

On 13th October 1920 Elsie married Charles Ernest May, who had bought Section 268 Hundred of Menzies from W.R. Boxer in 1920.

It was while Charles was working for his brother-in-law Alf Boettcher at Naine in the Adelaide Hills, that Elsie gave birth to her first child. Unfortunately the baby girl was what used to be called a Blue-baby and lived only six days, from 12th - 18th December 1923. She was named Gwendoline and was buried in the Naine Cemetery. During the following years a further three children were born to Elsie; Gordon Ralph on 31st May 1925, Oliver Clyde on 31st January 1931, and Beryl Joy on 29th July 1933.

During 1931 Charles took up Sections 42 & 43 Hundred of Duncan from which he cut yacca gum and caught possum for their skins.

After Elsie's father died in November 1938 she bought Section 2012 Hundred of Menzies from his estate, and the family moved to Cygnet River so that Clyde and Beryl could walk to school, Gordon having had to ride a bike 4 miles each morning and night.

In 1945 Elsie and Charles returned to Hope Farm, Gordon having married Olive Elsegood on 11th June 1945.

In 1948 a start was made on the development of block 42 as a grazing farm. Elsie, Charley and Gordon would work during the week and return to their homes for the weekends until November 1960 when Gordon started building a house and all shifted by 1962.

It was after shearing at Hope Farm that Elsie had a stroke from which she died on 31st October 1966. She is buried in the Kingscote Cemetery.

Written by Gordon May.

ERNEST HERMAN (Harry) BOETTCHER 1894 - 1991

Ernest Herman Boettcher, known as Harry, was born on Section 472 Hundred of Hart at Blyth Plains on 17th November 1894. He was the youngest son of John and Minna. He went to the original Hart school situated about two miles up Church Road off the main Blyth to Brinkworth road. At the age of nine and a half years he came to Kangaroo Island with his family. He travelled by train to Adelaide,



Harry, pictured on 6th August 1991, aged 96 years and 9 months, outside of the house he and brother Edwin built in 1912.

stayed overnight, and boarded to SS *Koorunga* at 8am, arriving in Kingscote about 9pm. His brothers Fred and Alf had arrived a couple of weeks earlier and were waiting with a horse and cart to take the family to their new home at Cygnet River. The night was very dark and they were unable to see where they were going.

Up early the next morning to explore their new surroundings, they found Cleopatra apples still on the trees, and had a great time picking and eating fruit which they had not had at Blyth. Then it was school time. The school was across the river about a mile away, on a property owned by a Mr Joe Bates, and when the river was flooding nobody went to school. The school was built with two rows of sticks filled in between with mud and was washed with lime. Later on a new, more modern school was built on Section 40 along the main road.

After leaving school Harry worked in the garden with Gus, who had already established his fruit and vegetable business. In 1912, at the age of 18, Harry and his brother Edwin (then 21) pulled down their small homestead built a larger house which is standing in good condition.

In between working in the garden Harry did other work; cutting leaf for eucalyptus oil, yacca gumming, and working with his friend Herb Wright learning tank making and blacksmithing.

In the latter part of World War I Harry spent some time with the army, based on the Cheltenham racecourse as a cook. When the camp was closed he did a motor mechanic apprenticeship and received a certificate which he proudly displayed as there were few mechanics around in those times.

On returning to Kangaroo Island Harry and Alf leased a property called Gum Creek from Mr H.K. Knock, a NSW businessman. When Alf left and went to Nairne, Harry married Adelaide Millicent Chirgwin and they stayed at Gum Creek, where their three children were born, until 1933. Merle was born in 1934 in Kingscote.

Their main income was from eucalyptus oil, growing tomatoes and pumpkins, and a few cows and sheep. Harry also built four scrub rollers from sugar gum trees for Gus, Ben Bell, Jack Lade, and himself.

In March 1933 Harry leased the property called the Bluff from Garry Buick, and stayed there for the next ten years. When the Bluff lease expired in 1943 the family moved to Hillview where they remained for many years before selling out and moving to 25 Dauncey Street, Kingscote. Harry lived there for his remaining years.

In February 1938 he bought the house and land from P.A. Neave which was called Hillview, where he moved to after the lease at the Bluff expired in 1943.

He later bought Part Section 49 on Wisanger Road, and in 1941 bought Section 225 Hundred of Haines at American River.

During all the years of moving from place to place he always had something growing in the garden.

Millie died on 14th January 1977 after having spent her last five years in Hospital. Harry spent most of his remaining years living by himself. Except for a period when his youngest daughter Merle lived with him, he was very independent and only accepted help when forced to.

He held a drivers licence for seventy years and was very unhappy when he was no longer able to drive himself.

Harry died on 16th November 1991, just one day before his 97th birthday. He and his wife are buried in the Kingscote Cemetery. They were survived by three daughters and one son, Daphney, Colin, Olive, and Merle.

ALWYNE MYRTLE BOETTCHER 1898 - 1977

Alwyne Myrtle Boettcher, known as Myrtle, was the fifth daughter of John and Minna and the youngest of the family. She was born on Section 472 Hundred of Hart, Blyth Plains on 2nd November 1898. She came to Kangaroo Island with the family in May 1904 and attended the school at Cygnet River.

After leaving school she stayed home and helped with the garden and other farm work. After her 21st birthday she left home to nurse in Adelaide, working at the Narma Private Hospital on South Terrace. Wages were only seven shillings and sixpence (75 cents) per week so she only stayed there a few months until she found a better job. She had several jobs over the next few years, before eventually deciding to return permanently to Kangaroo Island and reside with her sister Elsie.

Myrtle married Frank May and they had two sons, Trevor and Neville. In 1942 Frank enlisted in the army and was drafted to New Guinea. On 12th October 1943 he was killed in action and was buried in the Lay Soldiers Cemetery.

In August 1944 Myrtle and her sons left the island and moved to a Trust Home in Kilburn. When Trevor left school he returned to Cygnet River and worked in the garden with his Uncle Gus. Neville continued his schooling and went to the Urbrae Agricultural College before returning to Kangaroo Island.

In June 1968 Myrtle returned to Kangaroo Island to live permanently in a home she had built on Section 27 at Cygnet River. The home was built on land she had acquired from her father's estate in 1938 and her brother Gus had pastured it for her in her absence.

*Some highlights of Myrtle's life —
extracts from her writing dated October 1977*

Myrtle loved music and as a teenager she learnt to play the piano, taking lessons from a Mrs Partridge.

In 1927 she travelled with a friend by train to Melbourne and Sydney, where the Harbour Bridge was being built. They also visited Katoomba and the Blue Mountains.

Also in 1927 she spent many hours with her friend on the *HMS Hood*, the ship that brought the Duke and Duchess of York to South Australia, while it was anchored off Glenelg. In that same year she did a day excursion on the *Karratta* to Victor Harbour.

On Kangaroo Island Show Day in 1929 she had her first flight in an aeroplane called Old Gold.

In 1946 she and her son Trevor went on a gulf trip on the *Moonta*. She had a wonderful time, playing the piano for dancing and sing-a-longs.

In 1967 she returned to Melbourne and Sydney, this time with her son Neville, travelling by car.

Myrtle died on 14 April 1977 at 79 years of age. She is buried in Kingscote Cemetery.



Minna & John pictured in 1895 with their children. STANDING: Gus, Lena, Anna, Fred. CENTRE: Minna, Alf, John. FRONT ROW: Edwin, Harry (on Minna's lap), Elsie, Bertha. Myrtle was born 3 years later.

*Extract from Marriage Certificate —
Second Marriage of*

JOHANN FRIEDRICH WILHELM BOETTCHER — Aged 34 years
to
HENRIETTA SCHLUNKE — Aged 25 years

Grooms Parents

JOHANN FRIEDRICH HEINRICH BOETTCHER
& LUISE BOETTCHER (nee KERSTEN)

Brides Parents

GEORGE SCHLUNKE & MARIA SCHLUNKE (nee MANGELSDORF)

Married at Bethanien on 15th January 1886 by Pastor Meyer

~ NOTES ~

