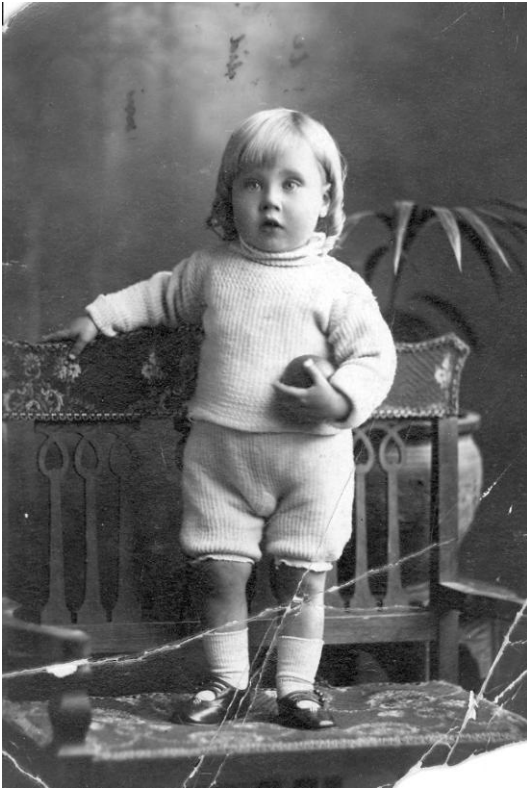


Initial Upload 12 December 2011
Last Update 14 October 2012

FRANCIS EDWARD

Francis Edward (Frank Jr.) was born at Broken Hill on 26 October 1910. He went to school at St Mary's Railway Town.



Frank 26 August 1912



Frank 1914

Frank and Blanche Harford took their family to Kangaroo Island in about 1920 when Frank was about 10 years old. Patricia had been born in Broken Hill in 1919 and they would have moved soon after that. There had also been a significant Miner's strike around 1919 and this would have meant there was no work for Frank to support the family which now numbered four children.

Frank Jr. attended Kingscote State School. We know Frank was there in 1921 as he was placed second in the Kangaroo Island A & H Society Annual Show for "*Homework Books*" for Grade IV. He would have been 11 at the time which by today's standards is quite old for that class level.

It is clear the three eldest children were all at Kingscote School by the end of 1925 and most likely earlier once the 1924 summer seasonal work peak had passed at Muston Salt Lake where Blanche ran the boarding house. In December 1925, Frank would have turned 15 and approaching 16.

Frank's wife Edna has told us that the Harfords were like gypsies on the Island, moving from place to place. She recalls that they lived at a house called "Sunnyside," a little way out of Kingscote towards Cygnet River. Young Frank used to go to school from there and he was picked up by the Bell girls in their sulky. He was about 12 or 13 at the time making the year about 1922 or 1923.

Frank would not have spent long at school and at the latest would have left in 1926. He turned 16 in October and the family moved to Merbein at the end of the year. Frank stayed on at Kingscote and got a job on the baker's cart delivering bread from Herbert Uren's bakery.

Frank met Edna when she was fourteen in 1929. He was eighteen and there had been a mix up with bread delivery and he came to the house to fix things up.



Frank Age 19 on Baker's cart

When Edna was 15 (1930) Frank took Edna to Merbein to visit the family. She was on the back of his new BSA motor bike. Edna could hardly walk by the time she got there because of the jarring of the bike on the very rough roads. The purpose of the trip was for the family to meet Edna.

At the time Frank and Blanche were living in a two or three room tin shed on the banks of the Murray River. The two Frank's would go off catching rabbits. It was during the depression and with little work rabbits provide a good source of food and some income from the sale of skins.

Frank and Edna were married in Adelaide at St Raphael's Catholic Church Parkside on 19 September 1931. This was because there was no Catholic priest on Kangaroo Island. Edna received instruction from the priest as was the norm. The witnesses at the wedding were Glen Bartlett (son of Winnie Bartlett, Blanche's sister) and Blanche (Frank's mother). Glen was living in Parkside at the time and he and Frank were close friends.

Married in the District of <i>Adelaide</i>					in the State of South Australia.			
Name and Surname to be written in full.	Age.	Place and Country of Birth.	Condition.	Trade or Calling.	Residence at time of Marriage.	Names and Surnames of Fathers of both Parties.	Place in which Celebrated.	
<i>Francis Edward Harford</i>	<i>20</i>	<i>Broken Hill New South Wales</i>	<i>Bachelor</i>	<i>Baker</i>	<i>65 Alfred St Parkside</i>	<i>Francis John Harford</i>	<i>St Raphael's Church Parkside</i>	
<i>Edna Sylvia Mary Tilka</i>	<i>16</i>	<i>Kingscote Kangaroo Island</i>	<i>Spinster</i>	<i>Home Duties</i>	<i>Wallard Hall Wakefield St.</i>	<i>Gustav Adolph Tilka</i>	<i>Young St Parkside</i>	
In the presence of us <i>Francis Edward Harford</i> <i>Edna Sylvia Mary Tilka</i>				Name. <i>G. Bartlett</i> <i>B. M. Harford</i>		Trade or Calling. <i>Salesman</i> <i>Home Duties</i>		
above-named <i>Francis Edward Harford</i> and <i>Edna Sylvia Mary Tilka</i> were duly Married				Residence. <i>65 Alfred St Parkside</i> <i>Melbourne Victoria</i>		I, <i>Maurice J. Bay</i> , <i>Officiating Priest</i>		
Witness my hand this <i>nineteenth</i> day of <i>September</i> 19 <i>31</i>								

Frank & Edna Marriage Certificate

Frank and Edna's only child Joyce Edna Barbara was born 29 December 1931. This was a little more than three months after the wedding on 19 September and clearly Edna was very pregnant when they were married.

Frank married Edna 19 September 1931. Their only child Joyce Edna Barbara was born 29 December 1931. Clearly Edna was pregnant before they were married. However the situation was more complicated because Frank also had another woman pregnant at the same time. This was Dorothy Buick and she gave birth to a son she named Nigel Ronald Buick. Frank never ever acknowledged that he was Nigel's father and formal adoption of Nigel was undertaken by Dorothy's parents Archibald and Violet Buick. Nigel was brought up as Dorothy's brother. This was a common practice in days gone by.

THE TILKA FAMILY

Edna was the only daughter and eldest of the three children of **Gustav Adolf Tilka** and **Bertha Louise Boettcher**. Her siblings were twins:

Roy Gilbert and **Dudley Harold** born 30 March 1917.

Roy married Gwenith Irene Smith in about 1939 in Adelaide. She died in September 2011. They had one child a daughter Helen born about 1941. Roy died in Adelaide on 4 August 2003 and was cremated.

Dudley married Edna Doreen Florance (born 11 October 1905, died 17 January 1969 at Kingscote, Kangaroo Island). Edna had been previously married to Reuben Neave. Edna had been left property in Reuben's Will which would default to their son Hugh Neave if she changed her name, that is, remarried. To avoid Edna losing the property Dudley changed his surname from Tilka to **Neave**. Dudley and his twin brother Roy did not speak to each other for a long time but five or so years before Dudley died they were brought together by David Florance. Dudley died on 2 December 1997 and is buried at Murray Bridge.

Gus Tilka's father was **Martin Tilka**. He married Maria **Kschiwan** born about 1838 on 7 September 1872 at Kolwitz a small town near Cottbus in Prussia. (It is now in the state of Brandenburg in modern Germany.)

The Tilkas migrated to South Australia on the "*City of Adelaide*" in 1876¹ with their six children.² All of the known passengers on this voyage were assisted migrants from Germany and were described as labourers. The ship departed from London on 26 May 1876 and arrived at Port Adelaide on 10 August 1876 a voyage of 84 days.

Also on the voyage was a second Tilka family that of Martin's younger brother Mattheus. After arriving in South Australia, both Tilka families lived in Riverton. The Tilka families appear to have been part of the Wendish community in the Lusatia region around Kolkwitz in Prussia. They migrated to South Australia with six children, Caroline (16) born c1860, Ann (Hanna) (11) born c 1865, Elizabeth (8) born c1868, Marie (6) born c1870 , Gustav (3) born c1873 and Carl (2) born c1874.

The ship's passenger list showed that Martin's age was 34 and Maria's age was 32. As they were married in 1872, the four daughters were from a previous relationship of Martin rather to his marriage to Maria. Family folklore suggests that the daughters eventually refused to have much to do with Martin's new wife and as a result fluctuated in their contact with their father too.

As the *City of Adelaide* appears to have been exclusively used to carry German migrants for this voyage, it may be reasonable to assume that the Tilkas had also received free passage as others on the ship did.

The reason for the Tilkas migrating to South Australia are not known. It may possibly have been due to the fighting in Europe where conscription was being used. It is known that Martin Tilka fought in the wars against Austria and France for which he was decorated.³ Alternatively, it may have been for economic reasons. Wends had been coming to Australia since 1848 and transportation and communication was becoming reliable and efficient. The Tilkas may have received word of the prosperous conditions in the new Australian colonies and were keen to try their luck.

¹ cityofadelaide.org.au

² [http://cityofadelaide.org.au/paxwiki/Tilka_Family_\(Martin_and_Marie\)](http://cityofadelaide.org.au/paxwiki/Tilka_Family_(Martin_and_Marie))

³ The Advertiser, Saturday 22 September 1906

Martin's children⁴:

Caroline Tilka

Born in Prussia c1860. daughter of Martin, married Samuel Terrell born on 15 July 1878 at the Registry Office, Adelaide. Samuel Terrell died at Stepney on 28 July 1881 age 47, and there appears to have been no children.

Caroline Terrell married Johann Carl Dohrmann on 2 January 1890 at the Registry Office, Adelaide. They had a least five children born in Goodwood West : Arthur Edward Herbert born 1889, Johanna Ida born 1891, Caroline Maria Dora born 1894, Louis Martin George born 1895 and Albertina May born 1901.

Ann (Hanna) Tilka

Born in Prussia c1865, Hanna Tilka, daughter of Martin, married George Korreng on 26 January 1892 at the Lutheran Parsonage in Adelaide. George had been born at Kolkwitz, Prussia in 1860, and had migrated with his parents and siblings in 1877.

Elizabeth Tilka

Born in Prussia c1868, Elizabeth Tilka died unmarried on 12 January 1896 at her sister's home at Goodwood West:

***Tilka**—On 12 January at the residence of Mr C. Dohrmann, Leader St Goodwood West, Elizabeth Tilka, beloved daughter of Martin Tilka, Kangaroo Island, aged 27 years.⁵*

Marie Tilka

Born in Prussia c1870 Possibly known as Mary Tilka, the (unmarried?) mother of Albert Alexander Tilka, who died aged 10 weeks at Goodwood West on 23 March 1898.

Martin and Maria's children⁶:

Gustav Adolf born 1873 in Prussia and became known as Adolf and Gus. He married **Louise Bertha Boettcher** (born 28 January 1886 at Blyth SA.) on 13 January 1914 at Pirie St, Methodist Church, Adelaide. He died 9 February 1929 on the Island in an accident in his horse and cart. He is buried at West Terrace cemetery.

On 17 December 1928 He had an accident at Kingscote:

⁴ ⁴ [http://cityofadelaide.org.au/paxwiki/Tilka_Family_\(Martin_and_Marie\)](http://cityofadelaide.org.au/paxwiki/Tilka_Family_(Martin_and_Marie))

⁵ Death Notice The Advertiser 14 January 1896

⁶ [http://cityofadelaide.org.au/paxwiki/Tilka_Family_\(Martin_and_Marie\)](http://cityofadelaide.org.au/paxwiki/Tilka_Family_(Martin_and_Marie))

HORSE BOLTED.

Man Seriously Hurt.

KINGSCOTE, Monday.

Mr. A. Tilka was driving home to Cygnet River from Kingscote late on Monday afternoon, when his horse bolted. After trying to pull the horse up, and failing, he threw down the reins and attempted to get out of the back of the car. At this moment he became unconscious and fell on his head.

Mr. Tiggemann stopped the bolting horse, and subsequently discovered Mr. Tilka lying on the ground. Finding he could do nothing for Mr. Tilka, he went for Mr. C. J. Bell, who rang up Dr. E. Lermite, and then took his lorry to the scene of the accident. The doctor ordered his removal to Kingscote.

Mr. Tilka is suffering from concussion, wounds in the head, and partial paralysis of his lower limbs. At present he is lying in a serious condition.

The Advertiser 18 December 1928

Gus died on at the Adelaide Hospital on Saturday 9 February 1929 and is buried at West Terrace Cemetery.

His wife **Bertha** married a second time in 1938 **Herbert Pat Murray**, an old family friend. She died at the age of 97 on 25 February 1983 at Sevenhill, South Australia. She is buried at West Terrace Cemetery.

Karl Albert born in Prussia c 1874, he was always known as Albert. He married Margaret Hamer, age 33, on 24 November 1914 in the Methodist Manse, Pirie St, Adelaide.

He petitioned for divorce in March 1926:

SUMMARY.

Carl Albert Tilka, farmer, of Cygnet River, Kangaroo Island, petitioned for a divorce from Margaret Tilka, the reason being that she had left him in March, 1915, and stayed away for about 12 months. She returned and lived with him until the beginning of 1917, when she again left, and had not since lived with him. On October 13, 15, and 24, and November 3, 1925, the respondent, it was alleged, had been guilty of misconduct with George Cousins.

Frederick William Schutze, Solicitor.

The Register 3 March 1926

The Decree Absolute was granted in September.⁷

Carolina born 27 October 1876 near Riverton S.A she became known as Carlina. She married **William John May** on 24 January 1905 at School Room Cygnet River, Kangaroo Island, SA. They had four sons and three daughters. Caroline died on 29 January 1959 at Cygnet River and is buried at Kingscote Cemetery, Plot 100 Burial 295.

Carlina and her husband lived at the existing Tilka Hut. Their first child Alfred John May (1906-1980) was born at Rocky River, near Cape Borda. He was followed by Edith Alice (1907-1988), Edmond Ernest (1909-1991), Frank William (1913-1943), Sylvia, Roy and Ida.

Carlina and Bill May played a significant role in helping the shipwrecked survivors from the French ship 'Montebello' which had gone aground near their Stunsail Boom River Station in the early hours of Sunday the 18th November 1906.

Subsequently, the Tilka sisters used the timbers from the 'Montebello' wreck to build their shearing shed.

In the 1920s Carlina bought a T Model Ford car. When it had finished its useful life (she never got on with it very well), it was cut in half and the rear section was converted to a jinker-type buggy. Bill and Carlina travelled to Kingscote for years, right up to the late 1940s at least, in this useful little buggy.

Carlina kept on shoeing horses until she was 75 years old. Caroline May née Tilka died on 29 January 1959 aged 82. Her husband William John May passed away on 29 April 1966 at the age of 87, and was buried with Carlina in the Kingscote Cemetery.



Caroline Tilka Born 1876

⁷ The Advertiser 29 September 1926

Wilhelmine (Minna) born 30 August 1878 Dublin S.A. She married Edward Burgess born c 1876 on 7 October 1902 at School Room Cygnet River, Kangaroo Island, SA. They had two sons and five daughters who included **Ida Valerie** born 14 July 1903 at Mount Pleasant K.I. and **Ivy Myrtle Minnie** born 12 December 1904 at Mt Eleanor K.I.

Minna died 28 Dec 1948 aged 70 years at Cygnet River, Kangaroo Island and she is buried at Kingscote Cemetery, Plot 243, Burial 231 with her husband who died on 6 September 1848.

Christiana Born 19 December 1880 Dublin S.A. Christiana married **William August (Gus) Boettcher** on 8 December 1921 at Methodist Manse Kent Town South Australia. Gus was the older brother of Louise Bertha Boettcher who married his brother Gustava Adolf.

Christiana was the driving force behind the young sisters' farm enterprise at Stunsail Boom River, and controlled the finances. They had a horse, a couple of implements to be dragged behind it, a couple of cows, and some sheep. They tilled some fields around the house, grew some crops, supplied milk and eggs to the district (a few other farming families) and shored sheep by hand with steel hand shears. Apparently though, their main income (that paid off Christiana's personal debt for the land) was from possum and wallaby skins and furs. They did their own tanning using local acacia bark etc. and once or twice a year they would load up their little dray and make the 2 or 3 day drive into Kingscote to sell them.

In January 1907 the Government had arranged with 18 lessees to surrender the balance of their leases comprising 480,000 acres, expecting that 268,000 acres of it would be suitable for growing cereals. Christiana Tilka relinquished 32 square miles at Stunsail Boom River, and her brother Karl Albert Tilka gave up 43 square miles at Eleanor North.

Christiana was a 'tough nut', hard working, determined, independent, and extremely capable. She stayed on her farm working extremely hard, and resisted settling into the "married life" of that era long after her sisters. Christiana was still single at the age of 33 in 1914, but at some time subsequently she married William August (Gus) Boettcher, who operated an orchard and farming block near Cygnet River. They had no children.

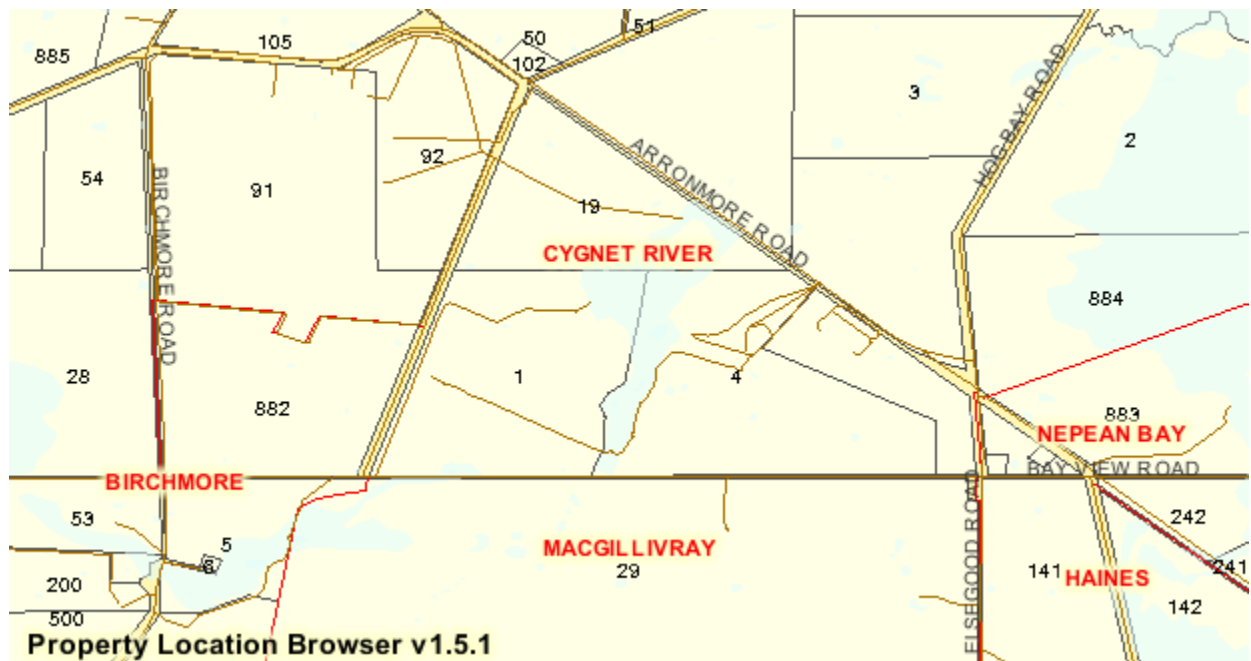
Gus Boettcher was the major prize winner in the fruit and vegetable section at the KI Show both in November 1929 and November 1930. Gus and Christiana used a sulky in the early 1920s to travel into Kingscote. Later Gus used a horse-drawn trolley which he loaded with fruit and vegetables to sell as a hawker in Kingscote. Still later a specially built motor van was introduced in one of the most successful trading enterprises on Kangaroo Island. (See Boettcher Family History).

Christiana Boettcher née Tilka died on 17 August 1963, aged 82 years, and her husband William August Boettcher, died on 2 August 1971 at the age of 87. They had no children. Christiana died on 17 August 1963. She is buried at Kingscote Cemetery, Plot 49, Burial 328.

Martin Tilka on Kangaroo Island

After their arrival Martin initially settled on the land north of Adelaide at Riverton and Dublin. He bought Section 383, (118 acres) in the Hundred of Dublin in January 1878⁸ and in the next year bought Section 321 (173 acres) in the Hundred of Inkerman, County of Gawler.⁹

He made the move to Kangaroo Island in April 1883 with the purchase of Section 263 (340 acres) in the Hundred of Menzies¹⁰. He also bought the property known as Freeman's identified below in today's property numbering at Sections 1, 19, 4 and part of 3 within the triangle bounded by Bay View Road and Arronmore Road. This land became known as Tilka's Farm.



We have identified a number of activities undertaken by Martin in addition to his farming. In 1886 he was successful in winning a tender with the Surveyor General's Department for the purpose of "*clearing scrub roads.*" It was still early days on the Island and there was a lot of work to be done in developing it. The value of his contract was 130 Pounds.¹¹

In October 1891 Martin had been in South Australia for fifteen years and accordingly became a naturalized Australian. In the same year it was reported that he was exporting nine kangaroos to Europe.¹²

⁸ SA Register 18 January 1878

⁹ The Advertiser 2 March 1879

¹⁰ SA Register 13 April 1883

¹¹ The Advertiser 26 February 1886

¹² SA Register 2 December 1891

In 1893 the Eucalyptus oil industry was established on the Island and Martin was one of its early pioneers.

...inquiries at the office for information concerning the manufacture and marketing of essential oils and perfumes, and as a direct result of the information thus acquired several distilleries of eucalyptus oil have become established. In respect to the oil manufactured at Kangaroo Island from *Eucalyptus cneorifolia* or "Narrow-leaf," the greatest authority upon eucalypt oil stated to the secretary of the bureau that "it was a beautiful oil—the best he had ever tested." With one exception, at Punyelroo, the following factories have been started during the three past years:—Punyelroo, E. A. Scammell; Kingston, H. Lush; Langhorne's Creek, J. Loser; Kangaroo Island, J. B. Anderson, J. E. Hicks (Queenscliffe); W. Cumming, H. E. Kinch, M. Tilka, A. Tocchi (all on Cymet River); J. Turner, Smith's Bay; J. Woods, Bay of Shoale. At present there are no distilleries or manufactories of perfumes because the raw material is not cultivated;

Report of Central Agricultural Bureau, The Advertiser 24 October 1893

In 1896 Martin made an application for a Trade Mark, Titled Sunbean Brand in respect of eucalyptus oil produced by Martin Tilka, Gustaf Adolf Tilka and Carl Albert Tilka trading as Martin Tilka and Sons.¹³

In 1894 Thomas Ward an Island resident with a mining experience and Martin went prospecting for something to do. They found some very promising samples which produced gold of 10 ounces per ton. This brought headlines on the promise this discovery held for the island.¹⁴

For Martin, the subsequent years produced many applications for mining leases and their renewal. These were all in the vicinity of the find and in the names of Martin his sons and daughters and even his wife. This must have been a large distraction from his main activities but the work continued and by 1898 there was reference to the "Tilka Mine"¹⁵

On 3 January 1899 the Advertiser reported that the Government Geologist visited the Island and all its mines and concluded the Tilka mine was promising. However, the following 1906 report provides more details which indicate that Martin may not have

¹³ National Archives of Australia

¹⁴ The Advertiser 25 October 1894

¹⁵ The Advertiser 24 November 1898

been sufficiently experienced, may not have done very well and that the mine had passed to new owners.¹⁶

put up. Mr. Tilka, a German, now living on the Cygnet River, sunk the Cygnet shaft 80 ft. deep five years ago, and, according to reports, won gold enough to pay a man he employed and other expenses, but had nothing left for himself. A Kingscote gentleman said the other day that it was reported to him that the present owners of the Cygnet mine found mundie on top of dump, thrown away by Mr. Tilka in ignorance of its value. According to assay it went 5 oz. to the ton. Other reports say the average of the reef is 8 pennyweights. The strike of the reef, according to the outcrop, is about north-west and south-east. From the appearance of the strike it is a true fissure lode. The reef consists of quartz, blue and grey quartzite, and all along the outcrop the stone is highly mineralised. The country each side looks like clay, slate, and sandstone. According to reports an ex-Minister of Victoria left the island the other day to order a 10-head battery, and the talk is of a 40-head later on and a proposal to work the mine on the open-cut system. The crosscut at 80 ft., in 24 ft., no wall. Much credit is due to Mr. Taylor. He is backed by a company which has great speculative possibilities. I believe this syndicate has £5,000 to start with. On the 14th we went up the Cygnet River south side. We crossed Snakey

The Advertiser 18 October 1906

In 1899 Martin transferred the freehold of his land to his two sons Gus and Karl Albert but in the same year he also took out perpetual leases on two very substantial parcels of 2161 acres¹⁷ and 1899 acres respectively¹⁸.

In September 1906 Martin now in his 60's sought a judicial separation from Maria. The judge found that Maria's desertion was proved and granted the separation. A major complaint made by Maria concerned Martin's smoking inside the house.¹⁹ He started smoking outside and later gave it up altogether for a month but this made no difference. Another factor was quoted as the influence of Dowieism (a Christian sect) on Maria.

¹⁶ The Advertiser 18 October 1906

¹⁷ The Advertiser 23 September 1899. Sections 278, 279, 282 to 285 Hundred of Menzies

¹⁸ The Register 7 November 1899 Sections 295 to 299 Hundred of Menzies

¹⁹ The Register 22 September 1906

Martin died in 1914 at the age of 72 years and is buried in Plot 252. The newspaper reported:

SUDDEN DEATH.
KINGSCOTE, August 18.—An old resident of the district, Mr. Martin Tilka, died suddenly on Monday afternoon. He had been in to the township, and when driving home pulled up at the blacksmith's shop to speak to Mr. Cook, who saw deceased suddenly collapse and fall out. He picked him up, and found life extinct. Later it was ascertained that Mr. Tilka had broken his neck in the fall. He was 72 years of age, and had been a resident of the district for more than 30 years.

The Register 22 August 1914

Mrs. Tilka died at Cygnet River at the age of 90 on Friday last. Mrs. Tilka with her husband came from Germany in the sailing ship City of Adelaide, and first settled at Klemzig, on the River Torrens, then moved to Dublin, but later crossed to Kangaroo Island, where she had lived ever since. At the time of her death she resided with her son-in-law (Mr. W. May) at Cygnet River. She leaves two sons and four daughters—Messrs. Adolf Tilka and Albert Tilka, Mrs. A. Boettcher, Mrs. E. Burgess, Mrs. W. J. May—all being residents of Kangaroo Island.

The Advertiser 21 November 1928

Maria died on 16 November 1928 and is buried in Plot 253 Kingscote Cemetery.

THE BOETTCHER FAMILY

The story of the Boettcher Family has been written by Colin Boettcher of Kangaroo Island. This has been posted on the website and can be accessed through the Harford History hierarchy and Francis Edward.

After Frank and Edna were married they returned to Kangaroo Island to live. Initially, they lived on the Tilka farm at a place called Jack's Place. They later went to live at Palmer's Cottage, a property owned by Edna's uncle Gus Boettcher.



Palmer's Cottage many years later

They were at Palmer's Cottage for about four years. During this time Frank's cousin Lorna (George Norbert's daughter) used to visit them from Adelaide. Glen Bartlett and his wife Doris also came to see them as did Frank's mother Blanche and brother Colin and presumably his sisters Joyce and Patricia.

Edna liked Colin and tells the story of how at one time they both had colds. In those days they used to sniff "Friar's Balsam" to clear the nasal passages. It was expensive and to save money they both sat with their heads under a towel sharing the balsam. The mind boggles!

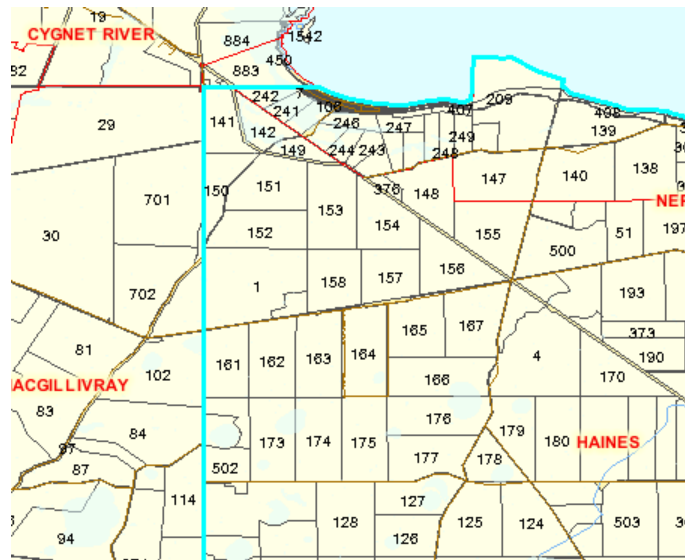
In addition to working on the baker's cart Frank also he did a number of labouring jobs such as picking fruit for Edna's uncle Gus in his orchard. He also used to collect and sell Yacka gum.

In about 1934 Frank changed jobs and moved from the baker's cart to an apprenticeship as a pastry cook with Stan Uren at the Kingscote Bakery. Because of this the family moved to a house in Kingscote lovingly called "The Dump." This was rented from Edna's uncle Gus Boettcher. He worked for Stan until September 1939 at his bakery and also in his electrical business Kingscote Electrical Services putting in electrical plant and poles and wires around Kingscote.



The Dump at Kingscote (Remodelled and Updated)

In the mid 1930's when Joy was about five, Frank acquired a Crown Lease on three sections of land. This was located just off the Hog Bay Road at the corner of Wilsons Road and Halls Road. It was sections 164, 165 & 167 Hundred of Haines and the area of the land was 1278 acres. We were not able to obtain the purchase transfer but we know Frank acquired it from the Crown. As a consequence the land was essentially uncleared and Frank worked very hard to clear it. It was a very large task. He would have spent any spare time there making improvements.



Sections 164, 165, 167 Hundred of Haines

Frank planted crops on the cleared land and he also had pigs. He used to raise them and then kill them and cure the meat into ham and bacon. This was then sold

to people on the Island. Edna said the islanders loved the meat and would come from miles away to buy it.

Frank was always a bundle of energy. When he was younger he was always exercising and bodybuilding. He was always very fit and energetic. He could never keep still.

In September 1939 Frank got a job as a Chainman for Harry Bailey, a Surveyor who later became the Government Surveyor. They surveyed for the pipeline from Morgan to Whyalla and Frank doubled as the surveyor's assistant and cook. This job took him away from home for long periods and in hindsight can be seen as a start to a breaking down of the relationship. Joy has said that she never saw him and when he came home she wanted him to stay. If he was going she would cry to go with him.



1940 Joy, Edna & Frank

Frank applied to join the RAAF on 30 May 1940 and indicated that as a baker and pastry cook he would be able to cook for a large number of men. However, he was happy to accept what the air force thought he could be best used for.

The enlistment process took four months and he was accepted and enlisted on 8 October 1940 as a Trainee Cook with the rank of Aircraftsman Class 1. The enlistment period was for the duration of the War and for a period of twelve months after that. He was to be paid 5/- per day and as a married man would also receive a separation allowance of 3/- per day and 1/- per day for each child under the age of 16. He was required to make an allotment of the separation allowance of at least 3/- per day to his wife.

On 19 November Frank commenced his Trainee Cook Course at the No.1 School of Technical Training West Melbourne. He completed this course on 18 February 1941

obtained an average level with a 65% result. He was then advanced as a Cook at the No.4 Initial Training School at Victor Harbour.

This was quite close to the Island and Edna and Joy used to come across and stay with a Mrs. Lord at Victor Harbour. Here Joy and Mrs. Lord's daughter used to pick pumpkins from the garden and sell them. Joy's share was usually 8 shillings and 6 pence which Edna was very grateful for as she had no money. They used to make arrangements to meet with Frank after his work. However, there were a number of occasions when Frank would not appear and there was no word from him. This was very disappointing especially for Joy. With hindsight it appears that at this time Frank may have already established another relationship.



Frank 1940

In June 1941 Frank was promoted to Leading Aircraftsman and on 1 September 1941 to the rank of Corporal.

Frank has only one misdemeanor on his Service Record and that was when he went AWOL for a little over 15 hours from midnight on 26th to 3 pm on 27th October 1941. This was at Victor Harbour. This was another small pointer to the fact that he was developing or had developed another relationship. In fact, Frank had established a relationship with Dorothy Short and at one point even took Edna with him to see Dorothy in hospital when she was expecting a baby. He also tried to get Edna to allow him to direct her separation allowance (allotment) away from her to Dot Short. This was Edna's only source of income to maintain herself and Joy. Dot had at least one child and possibly two with Frank, both believed to be boys, before he move interstate with the RAAF.

In 1941 Edna realizing that her relationship with Frank was over, became involved with Lenden Florance, a neighbour from Kangaroo Island. She had a daughter, Joan Merlene, with him who was born on 10 May 1942. Joan's birth registration recorded Frank as the father and he was aware of this and Joan is recorded as one of Frank's dependants in his Service Record. This ensured Edna continued to receive Frank's support as she was not being supported by Len Florance. (Later when Joan married at age nineteen Frank had to give his consent). Even after Joan was born Frank wanted to have Edna back but she was quite unwilling to have him because of his behaviour.

On 28 May 1942 Rita (May) Stone enrolled in the RWAAF at No. 4 ITS Victor Harbour. She was taken on to the staff there as a Messwoman after her training was completed on 23 June 1942. At this stage Frank was there as a Cook and they clearly worked together for a period of three months until Frank received another posting.

On 21 September 1942 Frank moved to Bradfield Park en route to the Townsville Air Force Base where he commenced on 14 October. He was there about two years when he moved to Tamworth. In February 1945 he was posted to No. 4 School of Technical Training. In July he applied for a discharge to take up employment as a Chainman with the Electricity & Water Supply Department, where he had worked prior to enlistment. He was transferred to the No.1 Reserve Pool and his request was granted. Frank was discharged on 5 September 1945.

After he was discharged it appears that Frank immediately took up with May Stone. May had moved from Victor Harbour to 7 RAAF Hospital in Adelaide on 15 January 1944 and remained there until her discharge with the rank of Corporal on 29 October 1945 shortly after Frank. Their eldest daughter **Patricia** was born at Ingham Queensland on 18 July 1946, just under nine months from her discharge.

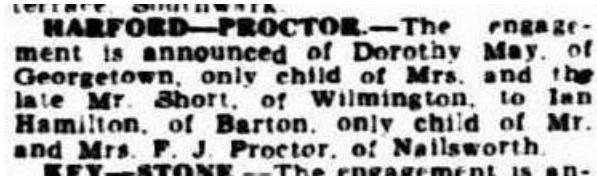
During the War processes such as divorce proceedings moved slowly. They were not a priority. However, with the War over Edna brought a case against Frank. The case came to Court on 15 October 1947 and the divorce was granted on the grounds of Frank's adultery with Dorothy Short. The divorce was to take effect six months after the Court order on 19 April 1948.



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Frank married May the very next day after the divorce was finalized on 20 April 1948 at the Methodist Manse Willowie.

In 1946 Dorothy Short had become engaged to Ian Hamilton Proctor but the Engagement notice contained a significant surprise. While the engagement was clearly between Dorothy Short and Ian Proctor the Headline of the notice was for **Harford-Proctor**.



HARFORD-PROCTOR.—The engagement is announced of Dorothy May, of Georgetown, only child of Mrs. and the late Mr. Short, of Wilmington, to Ian Hamilton, of Barton, only child of Mr. and Mrs. F. J. Proctor, of Nailsworth.
KEY-STONE.—The engagement is an-

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Further research by Jenny Carollo reveals that Dorothy's birth was registered as **Dorothy May Short**, the daughter of William Henry Short, mechanic, and Grace (nee Sims) at Wilmington on 28 August, 1907. Her birth was registered on 12 September, 1907. William Short was the son of Charles Short and his wife was the daughter of Walter Sims. They were married at Christ Church, Wilmington on 14 June 1906.

However, Dorothy's birth certificate contains the following note:

*"Name changed to **Dorothy May Harford** by Declaration No. 55 of 1946, deposited with the Registrar General of Deeds. Advice from Deputy Registrar dated 15 March, 1946. Signed District Registrar".*

Ian Proctor was employed by the old Commonwealth Railways at Port Augusta, Cook, Reid, Loongana, Rawlinna, Tarcoola, Barton and Hawker. He was employed as a 'pumper' and his employment record shows a number of misdemeanors for which he was fined. He resigned on 30 April 1953. He was married with one son - Anthony Edward Proctor, born 9 August 1942.²⁰

This child was born four years before Dorothy became engaged to Ian Proctor and the birth was at a time when Dorothy was involved with Frank and may have been his child. Further research is necessary to determine this. It is also strange that Dorothy changed her name to Harford some four years after her son's birth and it appears that she was looking for Frank to marry her or at least take some responsibility for the child. However, she met and became engaged to Ian Proctor which would give her child a father.

Also in 1948 Edna married **Lendon Eugene Florance** in Adelaide. After she married Edna started to use her second name Sylvia and she has used it to this day.

Len was born on 13 December 1914 at Kingscote, Kangaroo Island and his family were neighbours of the Tilkas. He enlisted in Australian Army, (SX17019) 2/10 Infantry Battalion at Wayville on 2 February 1942. He was discharged at 114 Convalescent Depot on 27 Oct 1944. He died on 9 March 1969 and is buried at Kingscote Cemetery.

In 1948 Sylvia gave birth to their first son **David Eugene** born on 4 May 1948 at Hindmarsh. He married and one daughter who was a lawyer. In 1964 David graduated

²⁰ National Archives of Australia sourced by Jenny Carollo

from Fort Largs Police Cadet College where he was the top of his class. He was employed as a Senior Detective in the Major Crime Squad of the South Australian Police Force working mainly on homicide cases. David died from Prostate Cancer on 31 March 2003 at Bridgewater. He is buried at Hahndorf.

Edna and Len Florance also had another son **Lyndon Eugene** born in March 1951.

Sylvia lived for many years at Murray Bridge and after a fall in 2008 moved into retirement accommodation near Adelaide. **Sylvia has always played the piano and Frank used to like her doing this. She often played at dances and socials on the Island and also at Victor Harbour. In her retirement she has continued this activity playing and singing for the guests at the retirement home.**

Sylvia died on 23 September 2012 at Strathalbyn, South Australia. She was 97 years old. She is buried at Murray Bridge Cemetery, South Australia.



Peter & Sylvia on her birthday 26 April 2008 age 93 years