



Over the past 20 years I have heard many stories about how the Barossa Valley was founded and formed. I thought it was important to delve further into this fascinating history.

Our grower base in the Barossa and Eden Valleys consists mainly of 5th and 6th generation German immigrants, with family names like Materne, Schiller, Hoffmann, Riebke, Schultz, Mattchoss, Lienert and Kalleske. Without their forebears, the Barossa we know wouldn't be what it is and thus, discovering more about their families' journey to South Australia is of great interest.

The attached are many accounts that I have pulled together to give you a snap shot of the amazing tapestry that has made the Barossa such a fascinating place with a rich culture and heritage. No other wine producing region in Australia was founded on such an interesting basis.

Happy Reading,

Michael Twelftree

Proprietor and Managing Director



TWO HANDS WINES

BAROSSA HISTORY

THE TRADITIONAL BAROSSA CUSTODIANS

Australia's First Nations people represent the oldest, continual, surviving culture on Earth.

The land that today we call the Barossa has – for tens of thousands of years – been the spiritual and physical home of the Peramangk, Ngadjuri and Kurna people.

The Peramangk people live and care for the land from the Barossa Valley in the north, south to Myponga, east to Mannum and west to the Mount Lofty Ranges. Their Dreaming Stories include the legend of Nganno the Giant, whose body forms the Mt Lofty Ranges. This land shares a boundary with the Ngadjuri people who live and care for the land embracing Angaston and Freeling in the south and running northwards to Clare, Crystal Brook, Gladstone up to Carrieton and Orroroo in the Flinders Ranges. Their traditional lands are closely aligned with the range of the peppermint gum, which explains why the Kurna people's name for Ngadjuri people is Wirameju, meaning in Kurna "peppermint gum forest people."

The Kurna people live in the Adelaide Plains and their lands extended from Cape Jervis at the bottom of the Fleurieu Peninsula to Port Wakefield on the eastern shore of Gulf St Vincent, and as far north as Crystal Brook in the Mid North, encompassing most of the modern Barossa region.

The stringy bark forests over the back of the Mount Lofty Ranges have been claimed as a traditional boundary between Kurna and Peramangk people. Many places around Adelaide and the Fleurieu Peninsula have names either directly or partially derived from Kurna place names, such as Cowandilla, Aldinga, Morialta and Munno Para.

The arrival of Europeans in South Australia had an indelible impact on the First Nations people who lived here prior to 1837. Today, we are left with little evidence of the indigenous people. In the Valley itself there are a number of campsites on which some stone implements and stone flakes from manufacturing implements have been found. However, many of these are located in vineyard areas and, as a result of the land being continuously worked, the campsite features have been destroyed. The best surviving sites are to be found in the hills areas where the damage from grazing has been minimal.

Cave paintings by the Peramangk are few although near Eden Valley and along the South Para River, a number of painting sites exist. The only documented painting site in the Barossa is in the Kaiser Stuhl National Park, near which is also a rock carving.

Significantly, and unlike the rest of Australia, South Australia was not considered to be terra nullius ("nobody's land") upon the arrival of Europeans.

When the fledgling province of South Australia was established by the South Australia Act 1834, the subsequent Letters Patent expressly acknowledged prior Aboriginal ownership of the land and stated that no actions could be undertaken that would "affect the rights of any Aboriginal natives... to the actual occupation and enjoyment in their own persons or in the persons of their descendants of any land therein now actually occupied or enjoyed by such natives."

Nonetheless, under the Act, the Indigenous owners of the land were deemed to have become British subjects and while the Letters Patent guaranteed – on paper - land rights for the First Nations people, in practice these provisions were ignored by the South Australia Company specifically and the white colonists more broadly.

One can only guess why there are so few accounts of the First Nations people in this area after the white settlers took possession of the land. However, it is known that the disease smallpox, introduced by early Europeans prior to the establishment of the Colony, resulted in the death of large numbers of First Nations people throughout the whole of Australia.



THE FREE COLONY

SOUTH AUSTRALIA - DISCOVERED

European exploration of southern Australia was slow and intermittent. In 1627 the Dutch East India Company vessel 'Guilden Zeepaard', captained by Francois Thyssen, conveyed Pieter Nuyts as far east as Fowler's Bay in the Great Australian Bight. His reports were unfavourable, and almost two centuries passed before further information reached Europe. The entire coast was finally charted by Matthew Flinders in the 'Investigator' early in 1802 and Flinders was surprised to discover that Kangaroo Island was uninhabited. At the same time, a similar expedition from the west was led by the French navigator Nicolas Baudin in his ship 'Le Géographe'. The two expeditions met peacefully at Encounter Bay, despite neither of them knowing that the British-French war was over.

Sealing parties, operating from the islands in Bass Strait, frequented the south eastern coast from 1803 onward and made intermittent settlements on Kangaroo Island. George Sutherland reported on the island in 1819 and greatly exaggerated its potential for settlement. European knowledge of the interior of South Australia was negligible until 1829–30, when Charles Sturt navigated the full length of the Murray River.

"...it would appear that a spot has, at length, been found upon the south coast of New Holland, to which the colonist might venture with every prospect of success, and in whose valleys the exile might hope to build for himself and for his family a peaceful and prosperous home. All who have ever landed upon the eastern shore of St. Vincent's Gulf, agree as to the richness of its soil, and the abundance of its pasture." —Charles Sturt, Expeditions into Southern Australia

Sturt located substantial habitable land in the southern reaches of the territory, and his reports were the foundations for the British plans for a new colony. The vast inland regions of South Australia were not explored for many years, and the challenge of a south-north (Adelaide to Darwin) crossing was not met until the expedition of John McDougall Stuart in 1860.

SOUTH AUSTRALIA - THE PLAN

South Australia became the chosen location for an experimental form of colonisation conceived out of the ideas and the entrepreneurial enthusiasm of Edward Gibbon Wakefield. Wakefield had developed a theory of "systematic colonisation" in 1829 that advocated a careful synchronisation between the sale of land at a fixed price and the introduction of capital and labour. It was intended also to make emigration a more certain and respectable enterprise for ordinary British folk and to free Australian colonisation from the stain of convictism. The proposals for the new colony emerged through a series of controversial negotiations with the British government. The government generally curbed, though it did not eradicate, the original plan's aspirations toward civil and religious liberties. The projectors were wrongly suspected of republicanism. South Australia was to be no ordinary colony but rather a "province" of the mother country.

In 1834, 'The South Australia Act' was passed by the British Parliament. The Act defined the province of South Australia as being "that part of Australia which lies between the meridians of the one hundred and thirty-second and one hundred and forty-first degrees of east longitude, and between the southern ocean and the twenty-six degrees of south latitude, together with all and every the islands adjacent thereto, and the bays and gulphs". South Australia thus became the only colony authorised by an Act of Parliament. The colony and its capital city were named prior to settlement. The name Adelaide was chosen by King William IV in honour of his consort Queen Adelaide.

South Australia was to be the first free settled state of Australia.

The planners and founders of South Australia called for the colony to be their ideal embodiment of what they perceived to be the best qualities of British society. They sought to prevent a reliance of convict labour found in other colonies, thus also reducing unemployment; to eliminate religious discrimination and; to make the colony economically self-sufficient. It was intended that free settlers would be attracted on the basis of freedom in the political, economic, civil and religious spheres, as well as opportunities for wealth through farming and commerce.

The act outlined that the transportation of convicts from the United Kingdom was forbidden and that the colony was to be developed at no cost to the British government. This was so South Australia would stand a better chance to be self-sufficient. To create the new colony a £20,000 guarantee had to be created and £35,000 worth of land was to be sold in the colony before any settlement occurred.



LIGHT'S GRAND DESIGNS

SOUTH AUSTRALIA - THE FIRST VOYAGE

In early 1836, nine ships accommodating 636 people in total set sail for South Australia. The ships in the fleet were the *Cygnets*, *Africaine*, *Tam O'Shanter*, *Rapid*, *HMS Buffalo*, *John Pirie*, *Emma*, *Lady Mary Pelham* and *Duke of York*. After an eight-month voyage around the world, most of the ships took supplies and settlers to Kangaroo Island. They landed at Kingscote to await official decisions on the location and administration of the new colony.

SOUTH AUSTRALIA - THE ARCHITECT

The surveyor Colonel William Light and his team were aboard *Rapid* and they had the task of deciding where the city of Adelaide would be best based on their arrival on Kangaroo Island, on 17 August 1836.

On arrival, Light was given two months to locate the most advantageous location for the main colony. He was required to find a site with a harbour, arable land, fresh water, ready internal and external communications, building materials and drainage. Light rejected potential locations for the new main settlement, including Kangaroo Island, Port Lincoln and Encounter Bay. On 18 December he decided on the site of Adelaide for the new capital, and headed north to survey the coast 8 miles (13 km) north with a view to it being the site for a harbour. On the 28th of December, 'The Buffalo' arrived with South Australia's first Governor John Hindmarsh aboard. With all pre-requisites having been met by Light and his team, they proclaimed the commencement of colonial government and we celebrated this as Proclamation Day.

Hindmarsh's Proclamation

"In announcing to the Colonists of His Majesty's Province of South Australia the establishment of the Government, I hereby call upon them to conduct themselves at all times with order and quietness, duly to respect the laws, and by a course of industry and sobriety, by the practice of sound morality, and a strict observance of the ordinances of religion, to prove themselves to be worthy to be the Founders of a great and free Colony. It is also, at this time especially, my duty to apprise the Colonists of my resolution to take every lawful means for extending the same protection to the native population as to the rest of His Majesty's subjects, and of my firm determination to punish with exemplary severity all acts of violence and injustice which may in any manner be practised or attempted against the natives, who are to be considered to be as much under the safeguard of the law as the Colonists themselves, and equally entitled to the privileges of British subjects. I trust therefore, with confidence to the exercise of moderation and forbearance by all classes in their intercourse with the native inhabitants, and that they will omit no opportunity of assisting me to fulfill His Majesty's gracious and benevolent intentions towards them by promoting their advancement in civilisation, and ultimately, under the blessing of Divine Providence, their conversion to the Christian Faith."

Light's next duty was to design the new city. When he was designing Adelaide, his plans included surrounding the city with 2,332 acres (9.44 km sq) of park. Of these, he reserved 32 acres for one of the world's earliest public cemeteries (West Terrace Cemetery). Light referred to his unique figure-eight of open space as "Adelaide Park". Later, the purchase of the lands of Light's Adelaide Park, and repeated correspondence and discussions about the Adelaide Park land/lands eventually corrupted his original name to the "Adelaide Park Lands".

Light placed the city to the north and south of the river, avoiding areas prone to flooding and making best use of the local topography. His survey plan divided the land into 1042 square one-acre lots; 342 acres (1.38 km sq) north of the Torrens (North Adelaide) and 700 acres (2.8 kmsq) to the south (South Adelaide, now known as the city centre). Light's Plan reserved 42 acres (0.17 kmsq) for town squares (38 acres) and government buildings (4 Town Sections of Public Reserves with Victoria Square frontages: now the Old Treasury Building/Lands Offices; GPO; Supreme Court, and Magistrates Court sites). In March 1837, after 116 preliminary buyers had selected their portions, the rest of the Town Sections were auctioned.



A HUMBLE TYPO

SOUTH AUSTRALIA - YOU SAY BAROSSA, WE SAY BAROSSA

On the 11th of December 1837, Colonel Light led an exploration from Adelaide towards the north-east. On arrival at the Southern end of the Barossa Valley he bestowed on this area the name of his friend Thomas Graham, Lord Lynedoch, famous Lieutenant-General and glorious victor of the Battle of Barrosa in the Peninsula Wars of 1811 in Spain in which Light participated as a young officer. William Light recorded in his diary on December 13th 1837 "at length, about 5 p.m., we came to a beautiful valley which I named after my much esteemed friend, Lord Lynedoch". On this same journey, Light consequently bestowed on the entire range the name of the victorious grounds of the battle of Barrosa in Spain. The town of Lyndoch was established three years later in 1840. A later clerical error meant it has gone down in history as the "Barossa" not the "Barrosa" Valley.

Colonel Light hoped to find a useful pass across the Mount Lofty Ranges to the River Murray by this north eastern route. That is why the main streets of Gawler and the Barossa towns are all named Murray Street and there is a small settlement named in his honour called Light Pass.

In 1850, there were a small number of First Nations residents in the valley, the Peramangk. Many outside groups also camped there, the Ngadjuri on long hunting trips from their lands near Port Wakefield and Murray tribes on their way to get rations in Adelaide. Peramangk numbers were already dwindling, mainly in this area because of the loss of native animals and deaths from disease, but they often helped the new settlers, for instance by harvesting wheat.

In the 1850s, the Barossa was best-known for its pastures, wheatfields, orchards, and the productive gardens of German folk. Grapes were grown for family use and by some few British and German landowners in small commercial quantities, but vine-growing and wine production on a large scale did not begin until the 1890s.

BAROSSA - THE BUSINESSMAN

George Fife Angas was born in May 1789 at Newcastle, England, the son of coach-maker Caleb Angas and his second wife Sarah Jameson (née Lindsay). At the age of fifteen he became an apprentice in his father's business and was appointed overseer five years later. In April 1812 he married Rosetta French and they were to have seven children. In 1824 he moved to London where he established a shipping firm, extended his activities into the sphere of banking, and became well known for his philanthropic support of many benevolent societies and missionary organisations.

In 1832 he joined the committee of the South Australian Land Company, expressing a keen interest in the establishment of a free colony where people could enjoy both civil and religious liberty. When the 'South Australia Act' was passed in 1834, the price of land was fixed at 20 shillings an acre. Sales were slow, delaying the foundation of the colony, but Angas stepped in, offering to take up most of the remaining land at 12 shillings an acre. He bought over 13,000 acres, transferring them in 1836 to the newly-formed South Australian Company, of which he was Chairman. Under Angas' control, the South Australian Company soon became a vigorous, money-making enterprise and played a vital part in the development of the colony.

The company was not the only part of Angas' work for the foundation of South Australia. He lobbied the Colonial Office, subsidised authors and published magazines and pamphlets. He recruited pious dissenters, helped to provide the colony with nonconformist ministers and chapels, sent out missionaries to the Aboriginals, founded the South Australian School Society and planned an advanced college and even a university like Oxford.

At this time, Lutherans in Germany were facing religious persecution under the King of Prussia. When the Colonisation Commission and the company refused to help the Germans to flee, Angas took pity on them and personally sponsored the German's migration to South Australia. The Germans were led by prominent pastor, August Kavel. On their arrival, many of them became tenants on Angas's land at Klemzig and then later at Angaston. His chief clerk, Charles Flaxman, who sailed with them, was supposed to be Angas' agent, but he also acted on his own behalf. His dual role and lavish investment confused David McLaren, the Colonial Manager of The South Australian Company, who nevertheless accepted his bills and charged them to Angas.



THE VALLEY OF CHURCHES

BAROSSA - THE BUSINESSMAN (CONT'D)

Among other purchases Flaxman acquired, in his own name, the right to seven special surveys, on the Rhine (now Marne) and Gawler Rivers in the Barossa Range for £28,000 (AUD \$5,800,000 today). On his recall to London, he was in dire financial straits and his biggest creditor was G. F. Angas & Co. And so, he brazenly offered the Barossa land to Angas, demanding for himself a commission of 10 per cent and the first pick of 4000 acres (1619 ha). Angas refused at first, but on learning how good the land was, he made his own terms and in 1840 and took it all. To meet this unexpected outlay, he sold his shares in the Newcastle business and the Union Bank, and the South Australian Co. agreed to accommodate him in meeting calls on his 1300 shares.

Though he had a reputation for benevolence, Angas was always a shrewd businessman. He knew that the influx of German immigrants would ensure a good supply of workers for the gentry and keep the price of labour down. In addition, the German settlers bought land from him at ten times the price he had paid for it, while at the same time paying ten per cent on their debt. Hence the phrase that Angas was often tagged with: 'Philanthropy plus ten percent'.

Angas himself finally emigrated, arriving in Port Adelaide in January 1851 with his wife and youngest son. He built a spacious house at Lindsay Park, near Angaston, and the same year entered the Legislative Council as the Member for Barossa, serving continuously for fifteen years.

BAROSSA - THE PASTOR

August Ludwig Christian Kavel was born in Berlin, where he attended the Gymnasium zum Grauen Kloster school and went on to study theology. In 1826, he was ordained and installed as the Pastor at the church in the village of Klemzig, located near the city of Züllichau in then South Eastern Brandenburg in the German state of Prussia. Kavel led some 500 Prussians from intolerable persecution to South Australia. It has been acknowledged that these migrants are in fact, Australia's first refugees.

The role of the Lutheran pastors and school teachers in the new colony was crucial. In fact, with such a large and widespread congregation, Pastor Kavel needed assistance and sought help from other pastors in Prussia. The 28 founding families of Bethany came to 'New Silesia' in 1842 with Pastor Gotthard Fritzsche. Together, Kavel and Fritzsche were responsible for arranging emigration and negotiating with land agents or landlords for their congregation to flourish.

BAROSSA - THE LUTHERAN FEUD

Fritzsche was a theologian of some standing with works respected in Lutheran circles far beyond Australia; Kavel tended to millennial doctrines then fashionable in Lutheran thought. From their beginnings the German settlements had minor feuds on questions of orthodoxy. Both Kavel and Fritzsche ministered at Bethany until Kavel founded Langmeil in 1843 (this remains distinctive but is now a suburb of Tanunda). At the Bethany synod in 1846, however, Kavel and Fritzsche quarrelled irreconcilably and severed organisational connections, resulting in a split within the Lutheran Church in Australia for 119 years. By the early 1850s, already several opposition Lutheran churches were being built, all within close proximity. Today, most Barossa towns have more than one Lutheran church. Tanunda, for example, has Langmeil, St. Paul's, Tabor and St. Johns. Nuriootpa has St. Petri and Holy Trinity. Angaston has Zion and Salem and the tiny hamlet of Light Pass has two churches, just 200m from each other.

BAROSSA - THE GEOLOGIST

Johann Menge, was a man of considerable scientific and linguistic skills. He became one of the most important people associated with early South Australian mining. Born in Steinau, Hesse, Germany on 20 January, 1788 he came to Kangaroo Island, on 12 January, 1837. He had been hired by the South Australian Company as their Mine and Quarry Agent and Geologist.

It was his task to investigate the potential for water supplies, minerals, including coal, and quarries. 'Professor' Menge, as he was often called, had little formal education but as a result of his extended wanderings through Europe, he spoke many different languages and had gained a good knowledge of Geology, philosophy, medicine and religion. In 1821 he was awarded the honorary degree of Professor of Mineralogy at the University of Lubeck.



"THE CREAM, THE WHOLE CREAM AND NOTHING BUT THE CREAM"

BAROSSA - THE GEOLOGIST (CONT'D)

Having lived in England for some years, after the death of his wife in 1830, where he got to know George Fife Angas, Menge obtained his job at \$300 per year plus a bonus for any minerals discovered. He left England on the Coromandel. After a short time on Kangaroo Island he was dismissed by the company's manager on 30 June 1838 and Menge moved to the mainland. On the mainland he now explored on his own account covering an area from Mount Remarkable to Cape Jervis. His activities encouraged the spread of settlement, further exploration and an interest in South Australia's mineral wealth. When the first Lutherans arrived in Adelaide it was Menge who assisted in their resettlement from the Adelaide Hills to the Barossa Valley.

In 1840 Menge announced his intention of making up a series of collections of the rocks, minerals, gums and metals he had collected. Strong interest was shown by the Governor, the colonial chaplain and many others. By the end of 1840 Menge had collected more than two hundred mineral specimens and in 1841 his booklet, *The Mineral Kingdom of South Australia* was printed as were several other papers at a later date. Some of his first discoveries were the copper in the Adelaide Hills and opal at Angaston. On his recommendation George Fife Angas bought 11,200 hectares of land which he called New Silesia, which 'would become the first mining country in all Australia'. The area eventually became known as the Barossa Valley. Menge was particularly fond of the Barossa Valley (which he called "New Silesia"), and he lived there for some time in a cave on the banks of Jacob's Creek at its junction with the North Para River. He diverted the flow of Jacob's Creek and created "Menges' Island" where he grew vegetables. He was particularly struck with the possibilities for viticulture. Menge wrote to Angas detailing the Barossa as "**the cream, the whole cream and nothing but the cream**".

BAROSSA - THE IMMIGRANTS

The Germans who immigrated to South Australia were from the provinces Branenburg, Posen and Silesia and other scattered areas. The rulers of the large Kingdom of Prussia, from 1701 to 1861, were the Hohenzoller family who considered themselves of the Lutheran faith. In 1797 when Friedrich Wilhelm III became king, he decided to reform the church and make it a state church with himself as official head and changed a number of the principles of the church to suit his personal beliefs.

Many people objected to these changes but it was to no avail, it was a matter of accept or be prosecuted. A number of people took the risk of prosecution and secretly retained the doctrines so dear to them. These conditions were so unacceptable in their homeland they were forced to consider migrating to a new country to save their faith.

At the time, it was believed that America was the best country to migrate to, but the government would not sanction this. In 1836 Pastor Kavel had heard of George Fife Angas and of the South Australia Company with his plan to establish a new style colony.

So, Pastor Kavel travelled to England to meet with Mr Angas and plans were formed regarding transport and finances. The intended migrants whose religion meant more to them than living in secrecy and maintaining a false doctrine, were soon preparing to leave. In 1836 the King of Prussia gave his permission for them to leave. They disposed of their possessions and prepared to face the hazards of a long sea voyage in small wooden boats to an unknown land. They travelled on barges along the River Oden but on reaching Hamburg they learnt that the King had changed his mind and had withdrawn his consent. In utter despair and disappointment they had to return to their homelands, with few possessions, no home, and no jobs.

After two bitter years, the displaced people refused to conform and were still determined to leave, the King realised they were of no benefit to him and he granted them leave to begin their journey. Four ships were chartered from Hamburg: Prince George, Bengalee, Zebra and Catharina. Prince George and Bengalee left Hamburg in July 1838 with about 250 of the emigrants. They travelled to Plymouth, where they picked up Pastor Kavel, and then continued on their journey until they arrived in Port Adelaide (then known as Port Misery) on 20 November 1838. Zebra left in August 1838 with 187 on board and arrived in Holdfast Bay on 28 December. Eleven people, six adults and five children, died on the trip. Catharina left in September 1838 and arrived in January 1839. In all, this group of ships transported 596 migrants from Prussia to Australia.



BAROSSA DEUTSCH

BAROSSA - THE IMMIGRANTS (CONT'D)

During the 1840s and 1850s many more Germans arrived as a result of economic hardship in Europe. German remained the preferred language for a long time and the Lutheran churches provided spiritual economic and cultural guidance. Through their schools the students received a predominantly German education which resulted in the retaining and safeguarding of their heritage.

From the beginning the Germans worked their land as mixed farms with an emphasis on subsistence. Although the Barossa Valley gives the impression of being only a wine growing centre, there are also many other industries, including mixed farming introduced by the first settlers. At no time did vines cover the whole of the valley. Vines were first planted in 1847 and within three years Johann Gramp had produced his Carte Blanche.

Within six months of arrival in South Australia, many of the German migrants showed a willingness to sign the oath of allegiance. As early as 24 May 1839, Queen Victoria's birthday, 123 German men took the oath. Four months later ten of these men were naturalised and were now able to buy Crown land.

An early Adelaide newspaper reported in 1843 that the Germans had established themselves at Bethany near Tanunda and made a highly valuable class of colonists. They were exceedingly industrious, sober and persevering people whose progress in the colony had been considerable. There were also the English, Scottish and Irish and among them many Anglicans, Methodists, Presbyterians, and Catholic worshippers. However for nearly three generations it was the Germans with their customs, religion, language, songs, food, houses, entertainment, festivals and dress, who made up the most dominant cultural group in the Barossa.

Most farm implements were distinctively German. The best known being the German wagon. This was used for everything, from family coach to wedding coach and hearse. In between it served to carry hay, heavy transport, caravan, grape carrier and water cart. One of their best known forms of entertainment, and still going strong, was the Liedertafel, a male choir, established at Tanunda in 1861 as well as The Kegel Club, a unique and traditional nine pin bowling alley established in 1858. The Tanunda Kegel Club is a unique traditional German nine pin bowling game, making it one of the oldest sporting games in South Australia.

Life was hard at first. Homes consisted of tents, dugouts, and huts made of wattle and daub. But, with a lot of tenacity and doggedness and a strong religious faith they not only survived but soon prospered and their dwelling were eventually replaced by solid stone structure with thick walls made of locally quarried stone. Granite and marble were also used for headstones, often adorned with German inscriptions, beneath which lie many of the early pioneer families

BAROSSA - 'IS THIS GERMANY OR SOUTH AUSTRALIA?'

'Deutschland Ueber Sued Australien' or 'Germany or South Australia' were headlines across many major Australian newspapers during the First World War in 1916, appearing alongside a map showing names such as Tanunda, Klemzig, Hahndorf, Rhine River, New Hamburg and Gnadenfrei. A debate raged: was it unpatriotic to the war effort to have a state with so many German place-names? The following is an excerpt from one of those discussions from

The Mail 27 May 1916:

"Tolerance has invariably distinguished the British. While those remarkable changes have been in progress, not only in the enemy's country, but also in that of one of their allies, they have offered no protest against the use of German. The Prince of Wales has not abandoned the Teutonic motto 'Ich Dien' (I serve) on his crest. The Australians, in particular, have been marvellously lenient."

And so, to end the debate in 1917, it was decided by South Australian parliament that all geographical names of a German sounding nature should be altered as they were officially classed as enemy names. In many instances Aboriginal words or names were used to replace those of the German-inspired names.



MODERN BAROSSA

BAROSSA - DEUTSCH

German was first spoken in the Barossa Valley in the 1840s. By 1850 and 1860, one in 10 people in South Australia were of German background. They formed an island of German speakers, set in a wider ocean of English.

Use of the German language in Australia declined as a result of World War I. Many Germans were interned, and immigration by German people was officially banned between 1914 and 1925, despite the 'marvelous leniency' experienced so far in South Australia. In addition, the German language was actively suppressed by the Australian government during the war. Lutheran schools were closed and were re-opened as state schools teaching in English.

The influence of South Australia's German heritage is evidenced by the adoption into the dialect of certain German or German-influenced vocabulary into our everyday vernacular. Such was the concentration of German speakers in and around the Barossa Valley, it has been suggested they spoke their own dialect of German, known as "Barossa Deutsch" or "Barossa German".

One such local word with German origins is "butcher", the name given to a 200 ml (beer glass, which is believed to be derived from the German becher, meaning a cup or mug "Butcher" is more commonly attributed to publicans around Adelaide who kept these smaller glasses for abattoir workers coming in straight from work for a drink before heading home. Round processed luncheon meat is known as 'fritz' in South Australia, whereas in other states it is referred to as devon, stras or polony.

Today local Barossans, many of them descendants of the original settlers, meet once a month over "Kaffee und Kuchen" to preserve this unique piece of Barossa history. They have formed the Barossa German Language Project to continue the documentation, maintenance and revival of the German language in South Australia's Barossa Valley.

BAROSSA - THE TOWNS TODAY

The major towns of the Barossa all have distinct personalities.

Tanunda is generally recognised as the most German of the three, given the first German settlement was at Bethany. Angaston, in contrast, is considered the English town as it was settled predominantly by Cornish miners and most notably George Fife Angas who hailed from Britain.

The third (and largest) town, Nuriootpa, was influenced by both the German and British settlers, and today is the commercial hub of the Barossa. It takes its name from the Kurna word, meaning 'meeting place'. William Coulthard purchased the land from George Fife Angas, and established a pub to take advantage of the passing mining traffic from Kapunda, after Copper was discovered there.

The name Marananga was first applied to Lobethal, in the Adelaide Hills during the Great War, but this did not find favour, so it was applied to replace the village name of Gnadensfrei, in the Barossa's Western ranges and Two Hands Wines home.

This name was first gazetted at the local school on the 16th of July, 1918. The word Marananga had no link to the local Aboriginal tribes but was used by the Overland Corner tribe, who were mostly based on the Murray River in the Riverland area of South Australia. The name Marananga from the tribe's literature mean 'My Hands' and referred to a well, as the only way to procure water from it was to draw it up by hand.



'MY HANDS' AND OUR HOME

KREAHE HOUSE AND THE ARNOLD FAMILY

Little is known about the early origins of Gnadenfrei, or Marananga as we know it today.

We do know that it was settled in the mid 1840s by German immigrants. The settlement was originally called 'Saltz Creek' as a large creek ran through the area, now named Greenock Creek. There are records in Pastor Flavel's sermons mentioning the children of 'Gnadenfrey' in 1854 and there is evidence of a school being there at the same time. It is thought that the school was run by Franz Krause who arrived in South Australia in 1849 on the Pauline, from Silesia.

The original Gnadenfrei School was housed next to the Seppelt Family Mausoleum but was destroyed after a fire. The school was rebuilt in 1858 and can still be seen today, next to The Villa's Barossa. Cemetery records show that from 1864 to 1900, 19 children under one and 12 between the age of 1 and 5 were buried. The distance from medical care was significant, and the burden and sorrow of the first settlers would have been immense after the loss of so many young children..

Friedrich Wilhelm Fritz Kraehe was one of the original settlers of Gnadenfrei and our Cellar Door is named in honour of him. He arrived in South Australia on Australia Day, 1859 and settled in Gnadenfrei on farming land neighbouring our Cellar Door, and that of nearby winery Powell and Sons. He had a significant impact on the settlement but the end of his life was fraught with sickness and he took his own life in 1915, aged 69 years. He and his family can be found buried in St Michael's Cemetery.

Gottlob Arnold, was also one of the original landowners and settlers of Marananga. He arrived in South Australia in 1867 from Hamburg. He purchased 80 acres of land on the corner of Stonewell and Seppeltsfield Road (the site of The Louise), and sold 2 acres of his land to a committee of local parents for 20 pounds. The committee then donated the land to the Department of Education to build a new school, as the community had outgrown the previous one. This is the site of the school that we see today.

The land on which the Two Hands Cellar door now stands was granted to Heinrich Burghard Theodor Jacobs in 1851. In 1853 Friedrich Gottfried Ludwig Qualmann of Langmiel and Daniel Heinrich Christian Busch of Harris's Flat both farmers jointly acquired the land. The property was divided in 1864.

Friedrich Qualmann transferred his portion, the site of our Cellar Door, to Johann Gottlob Arnold, one of the original settlers in 1879, who then transferred the land to his son Carl Freidrich Arnold. Carl and Bertha Arnold built the house after their marriage. They had 7 children. Carl Arnold worked in Greenock at the Greenock Arms Hotel, as an ostler (someone who tended to guests horses when staying at the inn). He died in 1940 and the land and home was willed to his son Friedrich Wilhelm Arnold (who built the house next to the school property with the cream and red bricks). After his death in 1961 the property was transferred out of the family. The headstones of Carl and Bertha and many of their descendants can be found in St Michael's cemetery today.

A land heritage survey conducted by the Light Council in 2002, states:

"The house itself is a symmetrically fronted residence with a return bull-nose verandah constructed in stone and the quoining and door surrounds have recently been re-rendered. The kitchen is constructed of the same materials and has evidence of a cellar underneath. It is a simple gable ended structure with a chimney at the northern end and a projecting curved barrel vaulted roof oven which extends from the chimney section. The house would appear to date from circa 1890, but obviously has used the early traditional methods of German settlers with the construction of the detached kitchen."

Two Hands acquired the land and dilapidated and un-inhabited house in 2002 by making the then owners of the property an offer they couldn't refuse and we restored the house to its former glory, opening the Cellar Door and Bakehouse in December 2003. The winery was opened in 2004.

TWO HANDS W

BUSES BY APPOINTMENT