

JAMESTOWN AND THE NOBLET(T)'S

The town of Jamestown was surveyed in 1871 and is located 200 km north of Adelaide. It remains a major service centre for northern agricultural cropping areas and the North East pastoral region. Jamestown has been at the heart of agricultural development in these regions from the 1880's.

John Noblet was a prominent South Australian pioneer who worked as a farmer and was recognised as "one of the first North farmers" in the region. His pioneer background and life history reflect the classic story of South Australia's early agricultural expansion:

John Noblet arrived in South Australia around 1852, migrating to the colony as a young child (7). He spent 77 years of his life in Australia, witnessing and actively participating in the rapid transformation of the bush into fertile agricultural land.

When the South Australian government began opening up the mid-north regions for farming under the "Selection" Acts of the late 1860's and 1870's, John moved to the Belalie East district (near Jamestown). As one of the earliest pioneer settlers in the area, he established a family homestead and cleared the land to farm wheat and livestock. He worked this land for decades, raising his 14 children in the harsh, isolated conditions of early rural South Australia before finally retiring and moving to Adelaide late in life.

Because he successfully carved out a life in the north, his family became pillars of the Mid-North community. Several of his sons famously dominated the local sports scene as champion lacrosse players, and three of his sons went on to serve the state as notable law enforcement officers, including an Inspector in Port Adelaide, a Sergeant in Alice Springs, and a Constable in Port Pirie.

The reason Jamestown was selected to play against the Canadians was not their ability on the field, but rather when it became difficult to finance the Canadian tour, the Jamestown club stepped in as a financier and guarantor, along with other state bodies and the M.C.C. and the S.A.C.A.

Clearly Jamestown was a club of substance, albeit not a champion team, as per the Register (Adelaide, 7 May 1907) "Efforts are made to induce both the senior and junior associations to send teams from Adelaide, and a communication has been sent to the manager of the Canadian team enquiring what terms they would require for a match here".

John and Maria Noblet had 14 children (12 males and 2 females), with Bill Noblet being the most famous lacrosse player from the family, representing Northern clubs (Including Jamestown and Port Pirie) and metropolitan clubs (Including Iroquois and Sturt).

Bill Noblet was certainly the most successful player from the Noblet family given he played in the 1907 Australian team against the visiting Canadians, along with a few of his team mates from Sturt, and also played in the S.A. team, as well as the Jamestown team, which played against the Canadians, and while soundly beaten but they were a prominent and respected club.



1920 Combined Northern Areas team
 Bill Noblet is the tall man in the front row, his brother Cyril is directly behind him
 Bill was 43, Cyril 30



Note a young Stan Noblet above, hadn't finished growing and still at that stage using the same surname as his older brother Bill. The S.A. uniform was also different in those early days and underwent a few changes in colours and style.

NOBLET OR NOBLETT?

While they were all born Noblet there were several of the younger siblings who for various reasons assumed the name Noblett. There were also several iconic South Australian businesses started with the name Noblett or by a Noblett.

More detail of this extraordinary family in the next edition, including how the Noblett name came to be, along with the names of several descendant families from the Noblet family.