Irish Settlers in South Australia

The Hayes and O’Toole Families

by Bernadette Thakur

Irish Settlers in South Australia is the story of two families. The O’Tooles arrived in South Australia from County Wicklow in 1840 and the Hayes family from County Galway in 1849. From their origins as impoverished tenant farmers in Ireland, they became respectable landowners in South Australia.

Using a diverse range of sources, Bernadette documents her ancestors’ untold story. The sheer sweep of their lives as they endured hardship and misfortune to create a better life for themselves and their descendants is a story worth telling. This book is more than a family history, for the story of the Hayes and O’Toole families is part of the larger history of South Australia in the nineteenth century.

A sample from Chapter 7, A Wedding in Mintaro:

Rain was falling as my great-grandmother Catherine O’Toole woke up on the morning of Saturday 15 July 1865, but this did not dampen her spirits. Catherine was 21 years old, and this was her wedding day. It had been raining all week and her family had some distance to go to reach the church, St Mary’s in Mintaro. Catherine must have hoped they would not get bogged on the rough and slippery roads. The local correspondent for the newspaper reported that some very heavy rains had fallen within the last 24 hours, and ‘it still looks very gloomy with every appearance of more wet’.


231 pages

The book includes over 70 maps, charts and photographs.

Price: $60.00 (including postage)

To order a copy contact:
bernadette.thakur@gmail.com