Thomas Anketell, c.1888

Anketell Family
William Anketell, farmer and magistrate
Thomas Anketell, murdered bank manager

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William Anketell was a successful farmer and magistrate and an influential man of unsullied reputation and high standing in the Pentridge District community.

Born in 1821 in County Monaghan, Ireland, Anketell arrived in Melbourne in mid-December 1841. He married English woman Anna Maria Crosswell, with whom he had nine children, two dying in infancy.

Anketell bought and sold land and by 1859 he owned fifty acres and four stone houses. Having retired from farming in 1875, he went on to add two quarries to his holdings. He was a member of the first Pentridge Roads Board , serving two terms as chairman. He was also a magistrate and a returning officer for East Bourke, a Coburg Holy Trinity Anglican Church parishioner and a member of the Pentridge Rifle Corps (later called the Northern Rifles Corps).

He died in February 1888 after selling up in Coburg and moving to Toorak. He, his wife and three of their children are buried together in the Church of England section of Coburg Cemetery.

In January 1885, Anketell's 38 year old son Thomas was murdered during a bank robbery at the Union Bank in the small country town of Roebourne in Western Australia. Thomas was the bank's manager and was in the habit of sleeping on the verandah on hot nights. The robbers killed him and a bank clerk, who also lived on the premises, with tomahawks. Sixteen months later, his brother William travelled to Western Australia to bring his body home and he was re-interred in the family plot where his parents and brother William later joined him. His murder remains unsolved.

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The above information is based on research conducted in 2011-2012 and is presented in good faith by the Friends of Coburg Cemetery.
Should family members wish to upgrade existing monuments within this cemetery please email enquiries@gmct.com.au