

Eliza Cereher (Cererher) per Roman Emperor to Adelaide, South Australia

Eliza Cereher was aged 14 when she arrived from Ireland to Adelaide on the *Roman Emperor* on 23 October 1848 and like many girls on that ship, she was Protestant.¹

In 1853 an unclaimed letter for her was reported in *South Australian Gazette* possibly indicating she could read but, of course, someone could read such a letter for her.² On 27 July 1854, when she was 19 years old, she married Charles John Anstey at Trinity Church, Adelaide. Charles was 29. He signed his name but she made her 'mark' indicating she was unable to write [see below]. The marriage was witnessed by Edward and Eliza Carslake, a married couple who arrived to Adelaide as paying passengers in 1847 on the ship *Success*. They were likely to be friends, fellow worshipers or possibly Eliza's employers.³

1854 MARRIAGES IN THE DISTRICT OF ADELAIDE, PROVINCE OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA.					
No.	When Married and Where.	Name and Surname.	Age.	Rank.	Condition.
2530A	July 27 Trinity Church, Adelaide.	Charles John Anstey Eliza Cereher	29 19	Builder —	Bachelor Spinster
<p>Married in the Parish Church, according to the Rites and Ceremonies of the United Church of England and Ireland, by Lewis, by me James Farrell, M.A. This Marriage was solemnized between us Charles John Anstey per Eliza Cereher's mark In the presence of us E. Carslake Eliza Carslake</p>					

Charles and Eliza lived at Port Elliot, mainly in the Waterport area.⁴ At that time, despite promotion by colonial authorities of the Port Elliot area as an important future port and trade centre for the colony, this never eventuated. However, Charles and Eliza obviously settled there with hopes of future prosperity and advancement.

They had eight children:

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| Thomas Henry (born 5 May 1855) | Lucy Lavinia (born 26 Nov 1863) |
| Frederick Edwin (born 23 Dec 1856) | Katharine Evelyn (born 27 May 1866) |
| Edward Alfred (born 6 Jul 1858) | Florence White Eliza (born 23 Jul 1869) |
| Clara Louisa (born 14 Sep 1860) | Charles John Anstey (born 18 Jul 1871) ⁵ |

Their children were mainly educated at Port Elliot Public School, although the youngest two children spent a few years at the short-lived St Joseph School, Port Elliot, which was run by the Sisters of St Joseph.⁶ The school was located very close to the family home at Waterport.

¹ *South Australian State Records* GRG 78/49, Adelaide Hospital, Record of Patients, 6 June 1889, no.997.

² *The South Australian Government Gazette*, November 1853, p.728.

³ Marriage, 27 July 1854, Trinity Church, District of Adelaide, No.2530.

⁴ *A Property Register Old Titles*, 1857, Volume 151, Folio 126.

⁵ *South Australian Genealogy and Heraldry Society, South Australian Birth Registrations 1842-1906.*

⁶ *Southern Argus*, 25 May 1882 p.3; Lorraine M.C. Pomery, *Port Elliot Primary School Centenary 1880-1980*, Port Elliot, Port Elliot Primary School Council, 1980 p.8 & p.12.

Eliza's Adelaide Hospital registration describes her as a member of the Congregational Church.⁷ Newspaper reports of the family's community life support this. Congregational ministers officiated at the marriages of two daughters and a son.⁸ Their children were also involved in *The Band of Hope*, with their son Edward performing at special occasions.⁹ *The Band of Hope* was a national organisation supported by the Congregational, Presbyterian, Methodist, Bible Christian and other non-conformist churches. It encouraged children to sign 'the pledge', thereby making a lifelong agreement not to drink alcohol.¹⁰

Charles Anstey was employed as a carpenter by the new Southern Railway, which ran the horse-drawn trams between Goolwa and Port Elliot from May 1854, and then on to Victor Harbour in 1864. The line was later extended from Middleton to Strathalbyn, work commencing on 1 August 1866 and completed in March 1869.¹¹ Charles was possibly involved in the early construction of the line and later worked on carriage construction and maintenance, recorded as a senior carpenter at the running sheds at Middleton by the early 1860s.¹² He later became a general builder and contractor.¹³

Charles was also very involved within the Port Elliot community as a public speaker and performer. He had a strong and enthusiastic commitment to the Port Elliot Institute. On 28 September 1882, as President of this organisation, he officiated at the laying of the foundation stone for Institute hall, built alongside the original Institute building which housed the library.¹⁴ In 1889 and 1891 he was auditor of the Port Elliot Council.¹⁵

Eliza's private life as wife and mother was not newsworthy. However, in 1875 she was assaulted inside her home. The case went before the Port Elliot Magistrates' Court on Friday 13 August and the defendant was Mrs Johanna Simmonds who lived on a farm near the Anstey home. She defended her action by explaining that the Anstey cattle were continually trespassing in her paddock.¹⁶ Interestingly, Eliza and Johanna were both Irish orphans. Johanna Simmonds (O'Neil) was Catholic and one of twenty-four orphans who arrived on the *Ramillies* in 1849, the year after Eliza's arrival.¹⁷

MAGISTRATES COURT— PORT ELLIOT.

FRIDAY, AUGUST 13

[Before Mr. H. K. Downer, S.M.] ANSTEY v. SIMMONDS. — Information for assault. The defendant, a widow, went to the house of the informant, wife of Mr. C.L. [C.J.] Anstey, of Waterport, and violently assaulted her by striking her in the face, causing a black eye, and knocking her down and kicking her several times, thereby necessitating the attendance of Dr. Eadon. Fined £3 and costs, £4 14s. in all, Mr. Downer intimating that in the event of the defendant coming again before him she would be sent to prison without the option of a fine.

⁷ *South Australian State Records* GRG 78/49, Adelaide Hospital, Record of Patients, 6 Jun 1889, no.997.

⁸ *South Australian Weekly Chronicle*, 9 Jun 1888, p.4; *South Australian Register*, 25 Jun 1880, p.4. Details quoted by descendants, but marriage certificates not cited by GIFCC.

⁹ *South Australian Register*, 25 Nov 1872, p.7.

¹⁰ State Library, *SA Memory – Band of Hope*. *South Australian Register*, 25 November 1872, p.7.

¹¹ *Southern Argus*, 5 Feb 1870, p.2.

¹² 'Obituary of John Dodd.', *The Advertiser*, 13 June 1929, p.11. This article refers to John Dodd being C.J. Anstey's carpenter's mate.

¹³ Description on death certificate and from evidence of tender applications.

¹⁴ Joan Willats, (compiler), *Port Elliot Institute Library Centenary 1880-1980*, Port Elliot, Centenary Committee, 1980, p.2.

¹⁵ *Sands and McDougall South Australian Directory*, 1889, p.1022 and 1891 p.1024.

¹⁶ *South Australian Chronicle and Weekly Mail*, 21 Aug 1875, p.3. Note spelling as 'Simmonds' in this article.

¹⁷ Family bible belonging to her descendants records this information.

Eliza died of cancer of the uterus and peritonitis in Adelaide Hospital on 26 June 1889. Her death notice in *The Advertiser* read: ‘ANSTEY—On the 26th June, at Adelaide, Eliza, the beloved wife of C.J. Anstey, Port Elliot, aged 54 years. A colonist of 40 years. Her end was peace’.¹⁸ Charles died on 4 December 1903 and was buried with Eliza in West Terrace Cemetery, Adelaide, South Australia [see image below].

Their third son, Edward Alfred Anstey, had a career as a builder and politician and has an entry in the *Australian Dictionary of Biography*.¹⁹ There he is described as ‘the epitome of early South Australian Labor leaders: a strict teetotaler, leading Freemason and committed Protestant’. In this he reflected many of the values espoused by his parents Charles and Eliza Anstey.

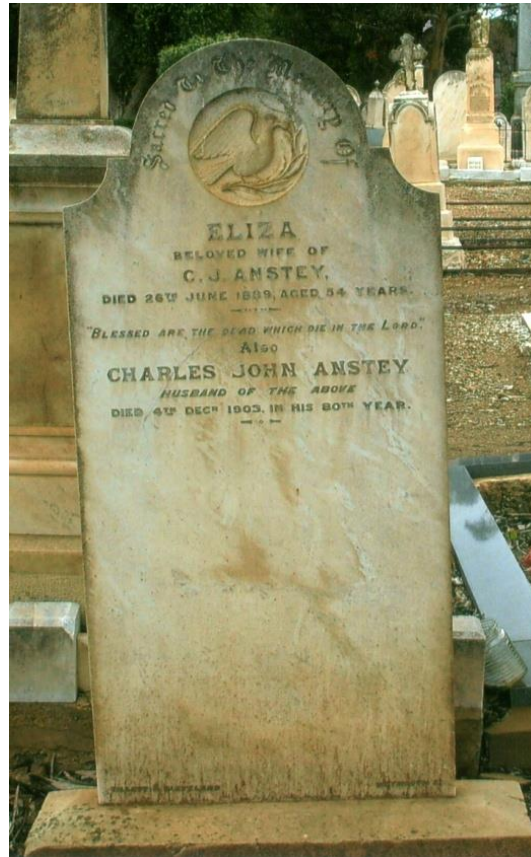


Photo: Joan Apps

Research: Joan Apps and Peter Anstey

Summary of research prepared for www.irishfaminememorial.org website by Perry McIntyre from document sent by Joan Apps, December 2016 and check of newspapers and birth, death and marriage indexes.

¹⁸ *Births, Deaths and Marriages Registration Office*, Adelaide, District of Adelaide, 29 Jun 1889, no.301.

²¹ *The Advertiser*, 28 Jun 1889, p.4.

¹⁹ Dean Jaensch, ‘Anstey, Edward Alfred (1858–1952)’, *Australian Dictionary of Biography*, Melbourne University Press, Carlton, Volume 7, 1979.