

Thomas CORNELIUS Junior

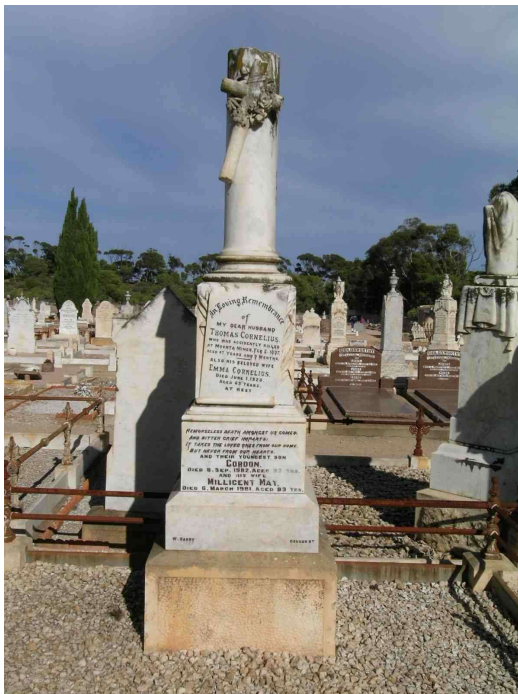
Thomas Cornelius was born at Haughton, South Australia on 1 July 1849, the second of eleven children of Captain Thomas Williams and Susan (nee Trewartha) Cornelius.

He married Emma Natt, 21 year old daughter of Frederick and Ruth (née Brooker) Natt at Wistow, Mount Barker on 30 October 1872.

Thomas and Emma had nine children, all born at Moonta Mines. They were Frederick Herbert Ernest, born 1873, Albert Howard, born 1875, Horace Stanley, born 1878, Ada May, born 1880, Hedley Spencer, born 1882, Gordon, born 1885, Stella Marion, born 1887, Florence Annie, born 1889 and Myra Amy, born 1891. Their firstborn son, Frederick died aged 2 years from convulsions at Moonta Mines on 1 July 1876.

Thomas was Underground Captain at Beddome's Shaft, Moonta Mines.

He was a local preacher at the Primitive Methodist Church and was Vice President of the Primitive Methodist Conference. He was reported as a man, with the best business qualities and boundless energy, always ready to give a helping hand, and was tenacious, broad minded, and scrupulously upright in all his dealings. Employees revered Captain Tom.



Thomas was killed in an accident there on 2 February 1897. An inquest found that he came to his death by falling from a ladder, and the fall was caused by the ground coming away about him while he was on the ladder. His actual cause of death was a possible punctured lung from broken ribs as there was air in his chest wall.

The funeral, with three ministers, was attended by large numbers of mine employees and Captain Hancock, as well as members of the Primitive Methodist Church and Sunday School and Freemasons and Foresters Lodges. Moonta Mines Primitive Methodist Church was crowded for the service, the hymns for which were set to old Cornish tunes.

His coffin was made of cedar and bore a plate with the simple inscription: "Thomas Cornelius, aged 47 years and 9 months," together with the words: "Nothing in my hands I bring, Simply to Thy cross I cling."

His obituary and inquest was published in the People's Weekly, 6 February 1897. His son, Albert Howard, also lost his life in the mine, at Taylor's shaft, Moonta Mines in 1912.