

## Charlotte Warne

1855 - 1935

London-born Charlotte Alma Warne née Andrews was an early European resident of the Maleny district. She was born in Harrow on the Hill on 11 March 1855; married Norfolk-born Frederick Warne; and made a home in northern England. Deciding to emigrate, Charlotte (pregnant with twins), Frederick, and their young son, Alfred, boarded the emigrant ship "Waroonga" in April 1887. Three months later, they arrived in Brisbane.

The following year, Frederick selected land where Witta is today, and took up residence in 1889. Charlotte must have found an isolated Queensland farm quite different to London where she spent her youth. Her new life included interactions with local Aboriginal people. Her granddaughter, Hilda Penney of Maleny (1925-2022), shared stories about Charlotte.

One story took place in circa 1889. Frederick was away working while Charlotte stayed on their farm with their two children. There were Aboriginal people in the area and they would walk a pathway around the house. This worried Charlotte and when Frederick came home for the weekend, she told him. When they came around again, Frederick went outside and the Aboriginal Elder held out his arms like he was holding a baby. Frederick took his young daughter outside and the whole group had a nurse. It was understood that they had heard the little girl crying and wanted to make sure that everything was all right.

Charlotte Warne lived the rest of her life in Witta. Together with Frederick, they established a successful dairy farm; endured the tragedy of five children dying young, but the joy of welcoming many state wards into their home. Both volunteered on local committees.

Frederick died in 1932 and was buried on their farm. Charlotte died in 1935, aged 80, and was buried with Frederick.



Charlotte, with granddaughters Alma & Hilda