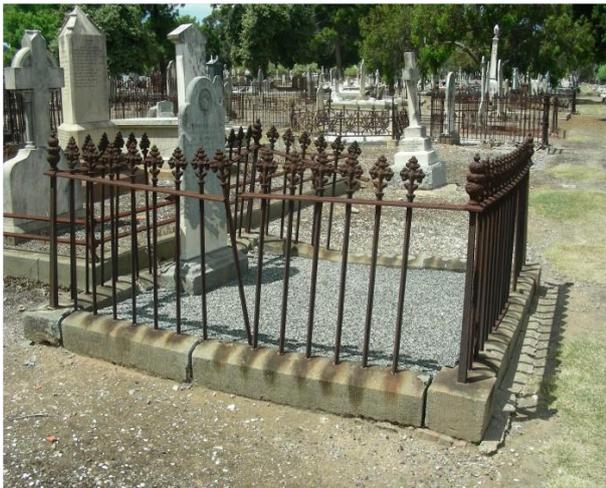


## BHS February 2021 Meeting OSMOND GILLES

In 2012 it was noticed that Osmond Gilles' grave in the West Terrace Cemetery had become very dilapidated. Bravely the Burnside Historical Society took on the project to have this heritage site restored. \$25,000 needed which was a daunting prospect. The BHS, in conjunction with the National Trust, launched an appeal. A Heritage Grant and a SA History Grant were obtained, the Adelaide Cemetery Authority and BHS made contributions, as did other Historical Societies, and the rest of the money was given by members of the public. On 6 November 2020, a rededication ceremony was held which celebrated a fine community effort and honoured one of Adelaide's significant pioneers.



**2012**



**2020**



L-R Meredith Ide, BHS; Hon David Speirs, Minister for Environment and Water; Judith Francis, President of the Pioneers Association of SA; Patricia Christie, Deputy Chairperson of the West Terrace Cemetery; Robert Pitt, CEO Adelaide Cemeteries Authority and Anne Both, BHS

**Anne and Ross Both**, long standing BHS members, treated the meeting to a well-researched presentation on the life of Osmond Gilles and the grave restoration project.

Osmond Gilles was born in London in 1788 and as a young man became wealthy during his time in



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Hamburg. Prior to migrating to South Australia on *HMS Buffalo* in 1836, he worked with Wakefield, Gouger and Kingston to set up the colony. He was the first Colonial Treasurer as well as collector of revenue and responsible for titles. He was a successful businessman; he took up land throughout the colony, he was a generous philanthropist and heavily committed to community involvement.

He was involved in mining, exploration, surveying Eyre Peninsula, and pastoral pursuits especially with merino sheep. He promoted the railway connection to Port Adelaide, was on the naming committee for the streets of Adelaide, the parklands committee and even sat in the Supreme Court.

His wife died young and there were no children to continue his legacy. Today there are few physical reminders of this remarkable man who made such a valuable contribution to the fledgling colony. His home *Woodley House* at Glen Osmond, the site of Woodley Wines, is still standing. OG Road is named after him, Gilleston in Balhannah, Lake Gilles Conservation Park, Gilles Arcade, the suburb of Glen Osmond and now his fully restored grave.



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