

# The story of Shottfire

It all began several generations ago with James "George" Goddard.

In 1871 he filed a mining prospectus - a simple document by today's standards. But for this sailor, whaler, bullock driver, farmer, prospector, later miner and hotel keeper this was his Eldorado- or more correctly his Lady Alice Mine, at Humbug Scrub in the Barossa Goldfields in South Australia.

The mine continued operations until 1892 when it was flooded by water from a nearby reservoir, and two miners were drowned.

Under George's management, the mine prospered for a considerable time, paying out several thousand pounds in dividend. He, his wife and family lived at Lady Alice where he ran the Hotel and Store until his death in 1897.

His story reads like that of a great wine maker - Prospecting, digging, discovery, building, producing and sharing the spoils.

## David and Cheryl Clarke have the Barossa soil in their blood.

In the mid 80s David and Cheryl planted their dream vineyard in the Barossa. "Against the current" is a term that springs to mind. When others were grubbing out vines, David and his inseparable other half were establishing their most fruitful claim.

Cheryl Clarke (nee Thorn) comes from a family of winegrowers whose plantings date back to 1853. They are some of the oldest surviving vines in the world. The Clarke family now has plantings at four locations in the Barossa and Eden Valleys.

And of their wines, the complex, rich and full bodied Shottfire Shiraz was voted by Wine Spectator as the 18th best wine in the world in 2005.

Robert Parker proclaimed Thorn-Clarke red wines as some of the greatest value in the marketplace. James Halliday has also given Thorn-Clarke a 5 star rating as a winery.

And 2004 Shottfire Quartage was rated the top wine at the 2005 Royal Adelaide Wine Show.

Year after year, Thorn-Clarke strikes more gold.



Ron Thorn, Cheryl, Sam, Brian and David Clarke



### The shot-firer's legacy.

Above the old Lady Alice Mine in the Southern Barossa, there's a derelict hut on a ridge. This was the magazine, where the mine's founder and first 'shottfirer', James Goddard stored his gunpowder, caps and fuses.

It was a job not without its risks in the 1870s, perhaps best explained by this droll description.

1. Drill hole
2. Load hole with black powder.
3. Tamp in the fuse.
4. Light the fuse.
5. Run

Of course, scrambling three hundred feet up a rough wooden ladder made the last instruction difficult.



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