

## BDA Source Description Pages

<http://www.bda-online.org.au>***The Aldine History of South Australia***

- *Illustrated in Two Volumes 1890* by W. Frederic Morrison. M.A., M.D.

Published by The Aldine Publishing Company, Sydney, 1890.

**Capturing the Text and the Data for the Biographical Database of Australia**

Gould Genealogy [www.gould.com.au](http://www.gould.com.au) scanned this set and gave permission for the Biographical Database of Australia (BDA) to incorporate the biographical sections of these volumes into the Database. The CD produced by Gould contains all sections from the volumes and is fully searchable. It is available from the BDA Shop <http://www.bda-online.org.au/shop> .

BDA extracted names and vital data from the volumes so that linking could take place, which enables the user to view a biography published in these volumes, as part of a BDA Biographical Report on the selected individual.

**Original Preface**

The author of this history acknowledges his indebtedness to the many excellent books on Australian life and habits by persons of fame and scholarship. The facts and statistics of each succeeding generation can only be preserved for the people following by putting them upon the printed page - while, therefore, we are glad to pay due court to others who have gone before us, we realise the need of a history for popular use, fully illustrated, to meet the wants of the present.

This work presents to the people of South Australia a brief history of its discovery and early settlement, and sets forth the rise and progress. No country can, with greater pride, point to her splendid achievements in so short a time, and can celebrate her Jubilee with such a splendid record. The marvellous and rapid development of her mines and soil, the push and enterprise of her statesmen, merchants, and professional men, and the magnitude of her industries and commerce, are subjects of wonder and congratulation. Hence, we give in succinct form a sketch of many of her noted people, both of the past and now living, who have won the honours of the nation, or who have in their several branches of industry distinguished themselves by their business successes, professional emoluments, or national services. We acknowledge the inadequacy of any book like the present one to portray fully every fact of historic value and interest of Australian life. The glowing pages of the artist and the pen of the historian will fail to reveal a tithe of her luxuriance, wealth, and, greatness. Her treasures of flora, fauna, mines, lands, flocks, herds, and commerce - dazzling as they are in the eyes of the world - are but the first fruits of a grander future.

No country in the world has been more extensively written about than Australia, and yet it is a difficult matter to find upon our book-shelves any work that will give the

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inquirer of this or other lands an adequate idea of the history, resources, enterprises, and development of the country - partly because most that has been published is now out of print, and partly for the reason that writers have confined themselves to only one phase of colonial life.

A large portion of this work contains the personal experiences, family records, and business enterprises of a great many of the early settlers and others, and also the observations of many of the best citizens in all stages of the colony's existence, that will make the work valuable as a reference book, and more especially to the families of those whose triumphs are made matter of record, and who chiefly bear the burden of its publication.

The Author.

### **William Frederic Morrison**

Editor, *The Aldine History of New South Wales, Queensland and South Australia*

*William Frederic Morrison (c.1837-1897+) homeopath and publisher, was reputedly born in Australian waters in 1841 (according to his own statement to the Daily Telegraph newspaper, Sydney, in 1894), the son of Captain Robert Morrison. A few months afterwards the family settled in Canada.*

In 1855 he gave his age as 18 when he entered Victoria College, Cobourg, Canada West (Ontario) and his fathers address as Allan's Corners, Canada East; in 1856 his address is given as North Georgetown, Canada East (Quebec). When he returned to Victoria College (which is a Wesleyan Methodist College, now part of the University of Toronto) in August 1861, he gave his age as 24. He graduated with a B.A. in 1863 and was granted an MA., by Victoria College in 1868.

He stated in 1894 that he read law for two years under the direction of Sidney Smith Q.C. and qualified for an LLB. A cumulative graduation list published by Victoria College in 1898 mentions him as holding an M.D. but does not say where he received it. A William F. Morrison M.D. graduated in 1877 from the Hahnemann Medical College and Hospital in Chicago, one of the best known homeopathic and medical colleges in the U.S.A. which operated also in Philadelphia.

It is not clear when he arrived in Australia but a Frederic W. Morrison, Bookseller and Stationer, is recorded in the *Sands' Sydney and Suburban Directory* for 1885, at 85 King St., Sydney. He reappears as Dr Morrison, M.A., Surgeon at 139 Victoria St., Sydney from 1888 to 1890 and again from 1892 at 231 Macquarie St., Sydney. His last listing in the *Directory* is in 1896-1897 at 199 Macquarie St. He was a Free-trade and Land Reform candidate for the Fitzroy Division of Sydney at the General Election of June 1894, but was unsuccessful.

W.F. Morrison published his Aldine Histories for New South Wales and Queensland in 1888 in two volumes at the Aldine Publishing Co., 336 Kent St., Sydney. According to the *Sands' Sydney Directory* of 1888, 336 Kent St. was the premises of Belden Bros., publishers.

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*The Aldine History of South Australia* was published in 1890. W.F. Morrison became involved in lengthy legal proceedings arising out of the publication of these volumes and left South Australia in 1891, after being declared insolvent. In an article in the *Adelaide Advertiser* in August 1890, Morrison stated “that he had been a publisher for a number of years having issued several books, of which he was the author, and he had of late years gone in for historical writing, he had come to Australia from America for that purpose. He intended to publish histories of all the colonies of Australia and would probably then leave for the Cape Colony”. What became of W.F. Morrison after 1897 is not known but perhaps he followed his intention and left for South Africa.

It is not known whether Morrison married or had issue in Canada. No record has been found of family connections in Australia.

Compiled by Keith Johnson with acknowledgement of assistance from Dr John Playford of the University of Adelaide and Dr Chris Cunneen of the *Australian Dictionary of Biography*, in granting access to research notes.

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