

Thomas Peter (Tom) Brady

1869 – 1949

- **Brady family came from Ireland in 1848 – Tom was born in SA**
- **1890's Tom was a carrier with his father on the Wilcannia road – was attracted to life on newly discovered White Cliffs opal field. He and brother Phil began mining and later buying opal**
- **Tom was considered a successful “field buyer”**
- **1905 Tom returned to White Cliffs after 2 years in Europe, gaining unerring judgement and knowledge in cutting at Idar Oberstein, Germany**
- **1909 Tom & Phil moved to Lightning Ridge. White Cliffs in decline as Lightning Ridge opal favoured by overseas markets**
- **1914 Tom supervised the Lightning Ridge exhibit at the Panama Exposition in San Francisco**

- **1920 Tom was in Coober Pedy. Most likely the second opal buyer on the field after Ernie Sherman. He had an early dugout and a “flash” car, the third on the field**
- **1933 Tom had a team of miners investigating opal find at Mintabi, also mined for wolfram at Hatches Creek NT with partners**
- **Report on Sports Day at Andamooka “main race was between 2 opal buyers, Tom Brady and Bill Francis. Brady won narrowly”**
- **1946 Tom lost the battle of wits and luck with Ernie Sherman to buy the Bryant’s best 8 mile parcel**
- **Ernestine Hill in 1933 wrote of Tom Brady in an article “Man with opal eyes” that he was “A humorous Irishman, with a flair for the study of high finance and a great fund of comic anecdotes”**
- **Emil Grund wrote in 1940 that Tom Brady “was the pick pf them all...he would carry up to £20,000 stuffed inside his shirt...he had no fear of being robbed and no-one ever tried”**
- **Sold most of his opal in USA. Tom died in Adelaide aged 80**