



Richard MILLS [1829-1902] (the Younger)

Married

[1] Anne Margret HENRY [1819-1885] on
26 October 1852 at St Andrews Scotch Church,
Inverbrackie

[2] Anne MOLLERUS (née NORRIS) in 1889
at Mount Barker

Departed with his parents on 7 August 1839
Arrived 13 December 1840 on the

Royal Admiral

Children of Richard & Anne Margret:

John (1857-1859)

Margret (1857-1885) m John MILNE

William (1859-1933) m Lizzie CHAMPION

Richard (1861-?)

Nancy (1862-1898) m Walter HARRISON

Elizabeth (1864-?) m Walter HARRISON

One Lucky Day....

Shortly after arrival and following advice from the South Australian Company, the Mills family moved to Brownhill Creek where Richard (the Elder), an experienced Kentish farmer and gardener, built a home out of stones from the hill-side and grew plants, shrubs and vegetables for the rapidly developing Adelaide.

On one lucky day in 1841, the South Australian Company suggested to his eleven year old son Richard that he might help one of their employees, Samuel Day, unload sheep that had been brought by sea from NSW for Mr Matthew Smillie, who wanted them driven eastward over the range to his Special Survey just east of Mount Barker. Little did he realise that this venture would lay the foundation for his future livelihood, as well as that of many future generations of his family.

Shepherding in the hills east of Mount Barker embodied in Richard a love of the land and gave him opportunity to explore some of the best farming and grazing land in the district. In about 1843 he brought his family to the area and built a red gum slab cottage and began life as a squatter in Black Hill Valley near Nairne.

The boom of the Burra copper discovery in 1845 was irresistible to Richard. He took a wagon and team of bullocks to get a share of the very lucrative task of carting ore. By the end of his first week he had earned the stupendous sum of £300 for taking one load the ninety miles from Burra to Port Adelaide.

1850-51 saw Richard in the Victorian goldfields, but by 1852 he'd had enough of mining and returned home with a grand sum of £900 to his credit. It was at this time that he married Anne Margret Henry.

We can only imagine young Richard's satisfaction when he paid cash for two original sections at Black Hill Valley at the price of £100 and £207 respectively. Here he established a farm and built up a flock of merino sheep. One section is the present site of Millbrae homestead, where his son William gained an Australia-wide reputation as a stud merino breeder, and is still occupied by the Mills family today. William also bred merinos at



Richard, Anne Margret and daughter Margaret
at their Mt Barker Cottage

his farm called
Sturtbrae, which
still stands
adjacent to
Flinders
University.

From information provided by Sally Tonkin
Richard's great great granddaughter
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