



## One of the Pioneer Families of Hahndorf

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### Friedrich NITSCHKE

[1802- 1880]

#### Married

[1] Maria Elisabeth SUESS [c1803-1839]

on 8 March 1827 at Kay, Brandenburg

&

[2] Johanne Christiane STAUDE [1809-1886]

on 14 July 1840 at Hahndorf

Departed on 12 August 1838 from Altona, Germany

Arrived 28 December 1838 at Holdfast Bay on the

### Zebra

#### Children of Friedrich & Maria:

Johann Carl (1828-1893) m Anna Elisabeth SEIDEL

Johann Wilhelm (1830-1904) m Johanne ZIMMERMANN

Johanne Caroline (1832-1911) m [1] Ernst KRUGER

[2] Carl ARNOLD

#### Children of Friedrich & Johanne:

Johann August (1841-1923) m Johanne MATTSCHOSS

Johanna Louise (1844-1929) m Johann LINKE

Johann Gottlieb (1846-1912) m Johanna KROEKER

Johanne Dorothea (1849-1903) m John HUEBNER

Friedrich and his wife Maria, both aged 34, made the ultimate decision to emigrate to Australia as a result of religious persecution. After much difficulty, Pastor Kavel organised for his religious followers in Prussia, including the Nitschke family, to emigrate to the newly established British colony in South Australia.

When Friedrich and his family disembarked, they had to carry all of their possessions on foot over steep bush-covered terrain to their new home in Hahndorf. The *Zebra's* Captain Dirk Meinertz Hahn, after whom the new settlement was named, arranged with George Fife Angas for the new settlers to receive rent-free land for 12 months, free rations and seeds until the crops came, and free use of a dairy cow for each family.

Shortly after the Nitschke family settled in Hahndorf, tragedy struck with the death of Maria in 1839. In 1840 Friedrich married his second wife, Johanne Christiane.

In the mid 1850's a disagreement between two Lutheran pastors in Hahndorf led to a split in the congregation and ultimately resulted in the majority of Pastor Kavel's followers including Friedrich and his family moving to Nain, just west of Greenock. In 1853, Friedrich purchased his first farming property of 80 acres for £160 in the Bagot's Gap district between Greenock and Kapunda. In 1856, he purchased an additional 80 acres adjoining his original property for £120/10. It was at this homestead in Nain that he built a permanent stone residence for his family.

In 1856 Friedrich built the stone Lutheran Church in Nain, which still stands today. He died on 27 April 1880 at home at the age of 77 and was buried at the Lutheran Church cemetery at Nain. As a legacy, Friedrich left the family farm in Nain, and his children and grandchildren were amongst the pioneers who helped establish the settlements now known as Hahndorf, Greenock and Nain. Friedrich Nitschke and his family are considered to be one of the original 54 founding families that formed the first settlement at Hahndorf and his name is inscribed on the Memorial Gates of the Pioneer Gardens in the main street.

From information provided by Kym & Carla Lynch  
Friedrich's great-great-great granddaughter  
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