



Richard BLISS [c1810-1879]

Married

[1] Elizabeth GRIFFITHS on 27 July 1834
&

[2] Keturah FOX on 12 January 1861

Departed from London

Arrived 11 October 1840 at Port Adelaide on the

Enterprise

Children of Richard & Elizabeth:

Elizabeth (1835-1883) m Robert MAYFIELD

Mary (1837-1882) m Charles LONDON

Children of Richard & Keturah:

William (1862-1862)

Henry (1865-1946) m Emma TASKER

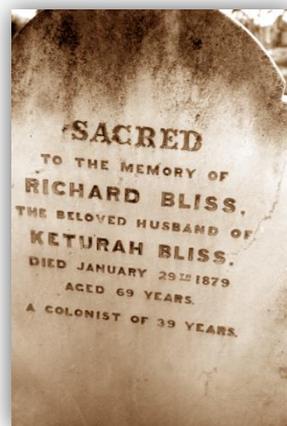
An Enterprising Engineer

Richard Bliss arrived in South Australia on the brig Enterprise in September 1840, probably very confident of his future. He had been engaged in London for three years as engineer of the first South Australian steamship, Courier, with promised wages of £540. No doubt he intended to send for his wife and two daughters as soon as he had settled in Adelaide.

His dream was soon shattered as the principals of the company who had employed him were bankrupted in another venture. With no monetary recompense, Richard was, in his own words, 'thrown on his own resources'. With no means of returning to England, he decided to try to build a life as an engineer and have his family join him. This would not have been easy in a colony suffering from extreme financial difficulties at that time.

In his first years Richard stayed around the port seeking whatever engineering work was available. He was contracted to construct the lamp for a lightship, which was to be anchored at the mouth of the Port River. He also worked on the engines of any steamers in port.

By the mid-1840s Richard had a permanent job as engineer of the steam flourmill that had been built on the Onkaparinga River at Noarlunga (now Old Noarlunga). He then began the complicated task of arranging for his daughters' emigration. Sadly his wife had died in 1845 and it was not until 1849 that his daughters finally joined him. Richard spent the last twenty years of his working life as an engineer in the Locomotive Department of the SA Railways, servicing the line to Port Adelaide.



Following his death in 1879, Richard's obituary spoke of him experiencing 'the vicissitudes incidental to the lives of early colonists,' such as the stranding in 1852 of the steamer City of Melbourne in a gale on the coast of King Island. It also recorded that he had 'by his uniform straightforward conduct

and his genuine kindness earned the sincere regard of his numerous shopmates'. This is how one would like to remember their ancestor. Despite his early difficulties, he worked to build a life for himself and his family and thus paved the way for those who followed.

From information provided by Pat Uppill
Richard's great great grand-daughter
February 2015

