



James

**HENEKER** [1826-1917]

Married

**Mary Ann SPENCER** [1829-1916]

on 18 December 1849

in the Holy Trinity Church, Adelaide

Departed 19 February 1839 from London

Arrived 17 June 1839 at Holdfast Bay on the

**Hooghly**

Children of James & Mary Ann:

James Jnr (1850-1926) m Christina GRAHAM

Jane (1851-1908) m Charles BAKER

Martha (1852-1930) m [1] Henry GUNTER

[2] George WHITE

Elizabeth (1855-1874) m Thomas YANDELL

Joseph (1857-1950) m Christina HILL

Mary (1858-1859)

Thomas (1860-1942) m [1] Mary MURRAY

[2] Jane HILL

Charlotte (1863-1932) m Thomas BLINMAN

William (1866-1872)

Abel (1870-1872)

## *Have Cart.... Will Travel*

In 1839, 13 year old James Heneker and his family came to South Australia on board the *Hooghly*. He soon found employment as a shepherd near Nairne at 30/- a week with rations, and then at Thebarton when the first house was built there.

In those early years, James had a variety of jobs, including driving bullock teams, and was witness to a number of significant events, such as the funeral of Colonel William Light. In 1841 his cartwheel turned up galena on the Glen Osmond hill, which led to the discovery of the Wheal Watkins silver mine - the first mine in South Australia. Within a few years James was a teamster with his own bullock team and transported the second group of migrant Cornish miners from Port Adelaide to the Burra mine.

For more than a decade after their marriage, James and Mary Ann lived at Dawesley, where their first seven children were born. During this period, he carted an engine from Port Adelaide to the Callington Mine using a team of 44 bullocks.

In 1864, James travelled to England to visit some of his relatives and, on his return journey, was passenger number 25 on the inaugural voyage of the clipper *City of Adelaide*.

James, Mary Ann and their family then moved to Lucindale in the south east where another two children were born. In 1869 he moved his bullock team to operate from Blinman in the northern Flinders Ranges and within two years was engaged to cart poles for the construction of the Overland Telegraph Line. He eventually retired in 1910.

James and Mary Ann later moved to Beltana where they remained for the rest of their lives and celebrated their 60<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary while living there. Mary Ann died in 1916 after a marriage of almost 67 years and was buried in the Carlton



Parade Cemetery in Port Augusta. James died aged 89 in 1917 and was buried in the Beltana Cemetery.

From information provided by Peter Chapman,  
James' great great grandson  
February 2015

