



William  
WINGATE [1813-1881]

&

Frances  
PINCHER [1810-1862]

Married in 1834 at Chichester

Departed 29 August 1839 from London

Arrived 4 February 1840 at Port Adelaide  
on the

## Branken Moor

### Children of William & Frances:

William Jnr (1835-1912) m Catherine DAVEY

George (1836-prior to 1839)

Joseph (1838-1910) m Eliza RAYNER

Fanny (1841-1913) m Thomas HIGGINS

Ellen (1842-1842)

John Henry (1845-1845)

James (1846-1848)

Harriett (1848-1936) m Richard BRUMBY

Eliza (1850-1938) m Robert PEDERICK

Sarah Ann (1852-1936) m Edward CRISPE

Hannah (1854-1854)

## A Pioneer of Munno Para West

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William Wingate was born at Birdham, Sussex, England. He married Frances Pincher in 1834 and with their two sons were granted free passage on the *Branken Moor*. The family lived at first in Adelaide, then Dry Creek and eventually settled at Gawler River around 1848. William paid £80 for the purchase of 80 acres of land on the banks of the Gawler River and named the property 'Birdham Farm' in memory of his hometown. From this time until 1872, he purchased adjoining sections until he owned nearly 400 acres and farmed successfully.

William was a strong supporter of the Wesleyan Church and at a meeting held in his home on 22 June 1854, it was decided to build a Wesleyan church at Gawler River. William was appointed as a trustee until his death in 1881 and laid its foundation stone. The church was opened in October 1854.

On 5 October 1854, the SA Register recorded that "On the 3rd October 1854 a Public Meeting was held at Smiths Hotel at Smiths Creek, Gawler Plains to petition the Legislative Council to sanction a railway from Adelaide to Gawler Town and Mr W Wingate was elected to the committee to organise the petition." This representation was successful and the railway from Adelaide to Gawler became a reality in 1857.

William also served on the local council for a total of eight years and, in 1857, he was the Chairman of the District Council of Munno Para West when the Inaugural council meeting was held in the newly built and opened council chambers.

From 1858 to 1872 William was active on the Gawler Agricultural, Horticultural and Floral Society, and actively participated in ploughing events and showing of livestock. He was a committee member for many years, often being called upon to act as Judge.

Frances died in 1862, while William passed away on 18 December 1881 aged 68 years and was buried at Stonehill Cemetery at Gawler River.

From information provided by Peter Chapman  
William's great- great-great grandson  
February 2015

