



Staines Bridge, Surrey, by Arthur Melville [Source: www.bbc.co.uk/arts/yourpaintings]

Farm labour in a new Colony provides a large family with a future

Joseph
AUSTIN [1816-1879]
&
Mary Ann Esther
HOWARD [c1820-1890]

Married December 1838
Staines, Middlesex

Departed 20 November 1838
Arrived 25 February 1839 on the

Thomas Harrison

Children of Joseph & Mary Ann:

Joseph (1840-1916) m Petillia HUTCHINSON

Thomas (1841-1843)

John (1843-1916) m Hannah LOMMAN

James (1844-1869)

George (1846-?) m Phyllis SKINNER

Henry (1849-1914) m Rebecca AMBER

Emma (died at birth)

Mary Ann (1851-?) m Luke STOTT

Frederick (1854-1919) m Mabel CLUES

Esther (1856-1900) m Alf WHITEHEAD

Charles (1858-1923) m Edith GREGORY

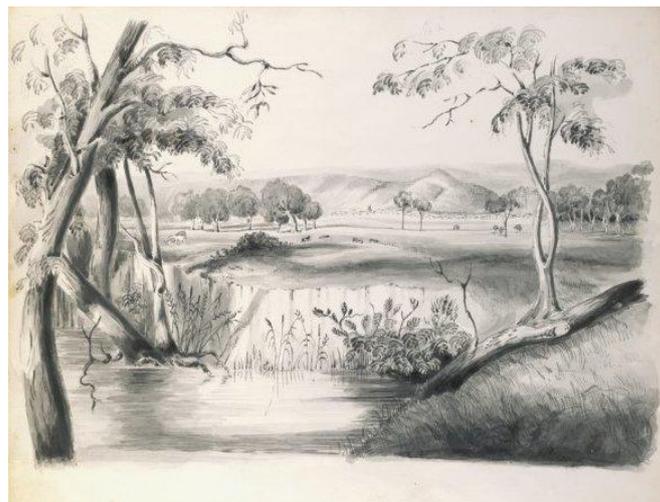
Alice (1861-?) m [1] Walter GREGORY

[2] Edwin WINSTANLEY

Andrew (1866-?)

Joseph Austin was born around 1816 in the small town of Staines in Surrey (now Middlesex). He was an agricultural labourer, specifically a shepherd. He married a local girl, Mary Ann Esther Howard, in the December quarter of 1838, in Staines. He must have become aware, through an Emigration Agent of the Colonial Commissioners, of the call for emigrant labour in the new province of South Australia. Because his occupation was one that was in demand, and as prospects for future employment in southern England were miserable, he decided to apply for a free passage. This he did on October 2, 1838, giving his home as the residence of Mr James Wigley, Staines, Surrey. His application was successful, and they were granted passage on board the *Thomas Harrison*, which departed on 20 November 1838 for Adelaide via Deal.

The young couple (aged 23 and 19) began their lives on a property at Reedbeds (Henley Beach area), where Joseph worked as a farm labourer. Their first child, also called Joseph, was born at Reedbeds on August 27 1840, and was baptised in Holy Trinity Church, Adelaide. Joseph Jr eventually became a market gardener at Athelstone, as did a number of his brothers. Joseph and Mary Ann Esther had thirteen children altogether over the next 26 years, the later children being born at locations further up the River Torrens (from Hindmarsh to Paradise [Shepley, Darley], Dernancourt [Gaskmore Park] and Athelstone) as Joseph moved from property to property to work. A number of Joseph's sons became well known in the Athelstone area as hauliers and bullock drivers.



The City of Adelaide from the Torrens, near the reed beds ca. 1850
[Source: National Library of Australia - nla.pic-an2904289]

From information provided by Peter Brinkworth,
Joseph & Mary Ann's great-great grandson
March 2014

