



**Robert  
DENFORD** [1813-1881]

&

**Ann  
DENFORD** [1815-1897]  
(née DEVONSHIRE)

Married on 27 October 1838

Departed 5 November 1838 from London

Arrived 21 March 1839 at Port Adelaide on the

**D'Auvergne**

Children of Robert & Ann:

Elizabeth (1840-1925) m James DAVISON

Robert (1841-1890) m Mary TAYLOR

Ellen (1843-1901) m Thomas HUNTER

Leonora (1845-1937) m Samuel NICHOLLS

Mary (1847-1927) m Joshua JONES

Charles (1849-1926) m Julia MANACKS

Francis (1851-1920) m Christiana PENBERTHY

George (1854-1894) m Alice PRATT

Alice (1858-1936) m John McCONNELL BLACK

## *A Family of Carpenters and Hoteliers*

---

Robert Denford and his wife Ann came to South Australia with his father John, sister Angelina and her husband Charles Harvie Earle. After arriving in South Australia in 1839, John took up the licence for the 'Bonnie Owl Inn' at Welwyn (near the Reedbeds) and Robert went into partnership with his brother-in-law Charles as a builder and carpenter and constructed many city buildings.

In late 1845 John Denford made his way to Guichen Bay, a new port in the south east of the state and built a new public house, the 'Bonnie Owl Hotel'. Robert and his family arrived at Robe Town in March 1847 after he won the tender for erection of its Police Station House.

In 1849 Robert took over the licence of John's hotel and changed its name to the 'Robe Town Hotel'. He continued to provide carpentry services while John ran the hotel. In 1853 he sold it and, in 1855, moved to Wellington East on the River Murray and took over the licence for the 'Bushman's Camp Hotel'. Robert then built his own 'Wellington East Hotel' and was the licensee until it closed in 1870. Various family members ran this hotel as Robert was also farming his land 'Tong-o-Tong' at Wellington East until his retirement.

John Denford continued to live in Robe Town after the sale of the 'Robe Town Hotel' then moved back to Adelaide and worked as a barman. In 1858 he took over the licence of the 'Reedbeds Hotel' for a short time.

John lived with Angelina and Charles until 1862 when he purchased a riverside block near Wellington East, and lived close to Robert until his death in 1869. In 1880 Robert and Ann retired and moved to Norwood where Robert died in 1881, and Ann died in 1897.

From information provided by  
Marjorie Andrew, Robert & Ann's great grand-daughter  
and Di Barrie, Robert & Ann's great great grand-daughter  
March 2015

