



Henry SNELLING [1818-1898]

Married Elizabeth HILLIER [1825-1901]
on 24 March 1841 at Holy Trinity Church

Departed 6 March 1840 from London
Arrived 17 June 1840 at Port Adelaide on the

Charles Kerr

Children of Henry & Elizabeth:

- Elizabeth (1842-1844)
- Fanny (1844-1923) m John PROBERT
- Mary (1846-1910) m Thomas BARNARD
- Henry (1848-1866)
- Elizabeth (1849-1866)
- George (1851-1916) m Eliza Ann CALNAN
- Annie (1856-1879) m Frank THOMSON
- Helen (1859-1866)
- Louisa (1860-1884) m Charles THOMSON
- Alfred (1861-1943) m [1] Ellen DAW
[2] Adelaide ELLIOT
- Alice (1865-1931) m Charles NORTHCOTT
- Rosa (1869-1968) m Alfred MAIDMENT

Enterprising Farmers on Kangaroo Island

Henry Snelling was born into a wealthy brewery and flour milling family. Displeased with his inheritance, Henry left England on board the *Charles Kerr* where he met his future wife, Elizabeth Hillier, who was with her parents and coming to join family already settled in Adelaide.

On arriving in South Australia, Henry took up section 2132 at Dry Creek, north of Adelaide. Three years after their marriage, Henry and Elizabeth were living in Currie Street where he carried on a chandler's business. In the evenings Henry taught Elizabeth how to read and write. By 1854, the couple and their first six children had gone to Rapid Bay to gain farming experience by managing a farm for John Croser.

In 1861 Henry secured 10 square miles at Middle River on Kangaroo Island, now commonly referred to as 'Snellings Beach' on the north coast. As the family had arrived with no house to live in and the land uncultivated, Henry built a wattle and daub house and cleared the land to farm. Supplies came once a year by schooner. Their family continued to grow and Henry and Elizabeth taught all thirteen children at night after a long day farming.

In 1866, sailors calling into the Middle River area unwittingly brought typhoid fever, which claimed the lives of three of the Snelling children. When word arrived in Adelaide that typhoid had struck at Kangaroo Island a special cutter was sent with a doctor on board, but due to rough weather was unable to land. Medication was thrown overboard and was washed onto the beach to be picked up.

After many years at Middle River, Henry and Elizabeth went to live with son George and his family at Shoal Bay on a little farm called 'The

Little Property'. Henry died there in 1898 and was interred in the Kingscote Cemetery. Elizabeth died in 1901 was buried along with her husband.



From information provided by Carolyn Carroll
March 2015

