



Joseph

MAY (1787-1878)

&

Hannah

MAY (nee MORRIS) (1790-1860)

Married on 2 November 1814 at Ampthill,  
Bedfordshire

Departed 27 May 1839 from London

Arrived 20 September 1839 at Adelaide on the

Anna Robertson

Children of Joseph & Hannah:

Frederick (1815-1885) m Emma COLEMAN

William (1816-1903) m Mary COTTON

Maria (1818-1909) m Henry PHILLIPS

Edward (1821-1864)

Thomas (1821-1885) m Margaret WHEELER

Margaret (1822-1902) m George PHILLIPS

Joseph (1825-1847)

Rachel (1826-1906) m Frederick MACKIE

Hannah (1828-1881) m Joseph BARRITT

Elizabeth (1830-1888) m William SANDERS

Lucy (1832-1926) m Arthur COLEMAN

Henry (1834-1835)

## *A Family Well Prepared for the Pioneer Life*

Joseph May, was 52 and his wife Hannah, 50, when they brought their eleven children to South Australia. The family belonged to the Society of Friends and had heard glowing reports of the colony from fellow Quakers Barton and Stephen Hack. At their age it must have taken them a great deal of courage to leave their home in England for an unknown land, but it was a chance to give their children a better future.

Joseph had a chemist shop in the centre of Hertford and knew nothing of farm or country life. His eldest sons, Frederick and William, had also no experience in farming. Both worked in London – Frederick in a draper shop, and William in a chemist emporium. When it was decided they should migrate, the two brothers were first sent to help on a relative's farm to learn about farm work and methods. For similar reasons another son, Thomas, was sent to learn carpentry, and his twin brother, shoemaking. This was certainly a wise arrangement because, a month after their arrival they had settled in a country district where no tradespeople were to be had for many years. Also well prepared for pioneer life were the two oldest daughters, Maria and Margaret, who were listed as seamstresses.

Joseph bought land at Mount Barker and had brought with him a Manning cottage in kit form, but as they found it impracticable to cart it by land up the steep hills to Mount Barker, this was sold. Instead Joseph began to build a larger home for his family and named the property 'Fairfield'. Here they grew an expansive garden and a productive orchard. But with the sinking economy in the 1840s, together with the delay in the receipt of an inheritance due, it was not until 1846 before the house was fully completed and occupied. The practical skills Hannah had acquired assisting in Joseph's chemist business were put to good use by neighbouring families in the colony, and she was well regarded in the community.

Hannah died in 1860 after undergoing surgery. Joseph survived his wife by 18 years, and died at the age of 90.

From information provided by Russell Cooper,  
Joseph and Hannah's great great grandson  
January 2016

