



## James WINDEBANK (1816-1888)

Married

## Mary Ann BELL (1820-1872)

on 27 February 1841 at Holy Trinity Church

Departed 28 June 1836 from Gravesend

Arrived 2 November 1836 at Kingscote on the

## Africaine

### Children of James & Mary Ann:

Jane (1841-?) m David LLEWELYN

Mary Ann (1843-1849)

Elisabeth (1844-1917) m John WALTER

Helen or 'Ellen' (1847-1861)

Thomas (1849-1921) m Alice STANBURY

William (1851-1861)

Caroline (1853-1935) m William DAVISON

Sarah (1856-1926) m George KIDMAN

Robert (1859-1934) m Clara REX

John (1861-1916) m Amelia GILL

## A Farmer Makes Good Near Kapunda

James Windebank was aged about 20 when, as an agricultural labourer, he migrated to Australia. His employer, Robert Thomas, was Adelaide's pioneer printer and publisher of the colony's first newspaper, and had purchased land in South Australia prior to settlement. The Thomas family and their employees travelled on the *Africaine*, a barque of 316 tons. James, of course, travelled steerage.

In her diary about the voyage (later published), Robert's wife Mary Thomas, mentioned James as being very helpful when it came to getting meals cooked. One day, though, when draining a piece of beef, James let the dish and the beef fall overboard. The family had to eat "hard biscuit and even harder cheese" with some boiled rice.

According to the Grolier Society Australian Encyclopaedia (1965), James worked as a constable in Adelaide in 1837 and his wage was £7 per year. In 1841, while living in Gouger Street, James married Mary Ann Bell, who lived at Hurtle Vale, now known as Reynella. Mary Ann had arrived in Adelaide in 1840 on the *Rajasthan*.

Later, James left the employ of the Thomas family and worked for Rev Arthur Forbes Lloyd, in Section 257, Hd of Noarlunga, Cherry Gardens. Windebanks Road in Happy Valley/Aberfoyle Park is named for him.

In 1851, James purchased property at Hamilton near Kapunda. His home, 'Wattle Tree Farm', was built on the banks of the River Light. James continued to farm and buy more land in the area. As a granddaughter said, "My grandfather had lots of land."



The Windebanks raised ten children. Daughter Sarah, married George, the eldest son of the famous Kidman family. Both James and Mary Ann regularly attended the Church of Saint Matthew at Hamilton, in the courtyard of which both are buried.

From information provided by Judith Porter,  
James and Mary Ann's great granddaughter  
March 2016

