



## Mary FISHER (1821-1906)

Married

## John PLEW (1812-1862)

on 19 March 1842 at Holy Trinity Church, Adelaide

Departed 5 August 1839 from London

Arrived 17 December 1839 at Port Adelaide on the

## Duchess of Northumberland

### Children of Mary & John:

Mary Jane (1843–1930) m Daniel KEMP  
Thomas (1844–1922) m [1] Mary Ann BARNETT  
[2] Lucy BROWN

Ellen (1847–1890) m John FISHER  
Eliza (1848–1882) m [1] John McNEEL  
[2] William SUGDEN

John (1850–1908)  
Hannah (1851–1908) m Charles BARBER  
William (1853–1923) m [1] Louisa SHEPHARD  
[2] Maria ORCHARD

David (1855–1931) m Ann ORCHARD  
Esther (1856–1933) m Samuel PARSONS  
Margaret (1858–1944) m Richard ORCHARD  
Cecelia (1860–1937) m Arthur NOCK  
Richard (1862–1949) m Emily NELSON

## *It All Began at Wadnama*

Mary Fisher came to South Australia with her family on board the *Duchess of Northumberland*. They travelled on assisted passages and were housed in the cramped and unhealthy steerage section of the ship. Mary's first niece, one year old Anna, contracted diarrhoea and died en route, a tragedy offset when her sister-in-law gave birth to Mary's first nephew, Thomas, some six weeks later.

The Fishers initially seemed to have settled transiently in Hindmarsh and later at Alberton. At the time of her marriage in 1842 at Holy Trinity Church, Mary was living with her family at Gawler River, as was her future husband John Plew, a carter, who had arrived in South Australia in 1839. The first record of his existence in South Australia is his September 1840 purchase of land in the village of Islington, now known as Dudley Park.

The year 1847 saw the young Plew family living on the Wakefield Plain between Balaklava and Rhynie where John worked for Mr Robert Fry prior to starting their own farm, which they named *Wadnama*.

*Wadnama* began with a grant of land in February 1849 on the upper section on the Wakefield River about half way between Rhynie and Undalya. Their first house was on the river flat near a bend in the Wakefield River. As the family grew in number, so did the size of *Wadnama*, increasing from an initial 83 acres to 1200 acres by 1896. With a larger family came the need for a larger house built sometime after 1852 on rising ground near a spring. The new homestead was a large farmhouse with storeroom, dairy and cellars separated from the house by a covered passageway and surrounded by garden on three sides.

Sadly John died as a result of an accident in 1862, some four months before Mary gave birth to their twelfth child. Mary continued to run and expand the



farm with assistance from her family until 1887 and lived at *Wadnama* until her death in 1906. Both are buried at Riverton.

From information provided by Deane Kemp,  
Mary Fisher's great great grandson  
March 2016

