



A Spirited Landlord Brings Joy to His Neighbours

John LARKING [c1820-1875]

Married

[1] Catherine HYDE

on 7 October 1839 at East Fairleigh, Kent &

[2] Phoebe HUGHES in October 1850

Departed 29 February 1840 from London

Arrived 10 June 1840 on the

Orleana

Children of John & Catherine:

James (1839-1840)

Catherine (1842-1902) m William FORBES

William (1844-1872) m Mary Ann HILLMAN

Two others (details unknown)

Children of John & Phoebe:

Francis (1851-1878) m [1] Donald MORRISON [2] John MELVILLE

John (1853-1882) m Alice WRIGHT

Richard (1855-1918)

Stephen (1857-1933) m Rose STOTT

Phoebe (1859-1922) m Andrew DIGNUM

Sarah (1860-1922) m [1] James TYRRELL [2] William BEBBINGTON
[3] Charles BESWICK [4] John MAGUIRE [5] John LOWE

Mary Ann (1862-1865)

Caroline (1863-1866)

Thomas (1865-1937) m [1] Emily DANZIE [2] Edith HANCHANT

Annie (1867-1950) m [1] William GOODE [2] William SPARKS
[3] John VIANT [4] David HOSIE

Charlotte (1869-1950) m [1] Archibald MORRISON [2] John WHITELAW

Frederick (1870-1950)

Ellen (1871-1873)

Amy (1873-1902) m [1] Martin SHERIDAN [2] Anton IVERSON

Eliza (1873-1956) m Archibald MUNRO

John Henry Larking, his wife Catherine and their infant son James John arrived at Port Adelaide aboard the Orleana on June 10, 1840. He was listed as an Agricultural Labourer.

Sometime after this, he and Catherine moved to Little Swamp near Port Lincoln where he worked as a sawmill worker, butcher, carrier and publican. Reportedly there were five young Larking children when Catherine died but records have only been found for Catherine and William. He then married Phoebe Hughes in October 1850 and they had sixteen children.

In 1858 he was granted a Depasturing License, which authorised him to carry fifteen head of cattle and in 1874 he purchased another 87 acres at £2 per acre in Section 80 of Hundred of Lincoln.

The Sportsman's Arms or The Little Swamp Hotel, was licensed to him 1859. He had lived there for ten or more years before it was licensed as a hotel. During that pre-hotel time he was listed as a labourer, butcher, builder and also operated a pit saw with another fellow called Kilroy selling sawn red gum timber at the Duck Ponds. When a new road was built the original hotel became isolated. The freehold of 72 acres was granted to him on 9 July 1862 and a new Sportsman's Arms licensed to him was built there.

He held the license until 1864 and again from 1868 until his death in 1875. His children, Catherine and William, carted stone in wheelbarrows for the building of the second Sportsman's Arms.

In 1870 he purchased the large band organ that had played at the Norfolk Arms Hotel in Rundle Street, Adelaide. It was reported in The South Australian Advertiser that...

'The spirited landlord deserves credit for purchasing at a high price this masterpiece of musical mechanism. Many young people who have been brought up in this neighbourhood have been to hear it and were in ecstasies.'



In 1872 he attended the Pioneers dinner in Adelaide and was photographed by Duryea, this being the only photograph remaining of him.

John Henry Larking died of cancer of the mouth on 9 August 1875 at Little Swamp, leaving Phoebe and 13 surviving children. He is buried in the Pioneer Cemetery, Port Lincoln with his daughters Mary Anne, Caroline and Ellen.

From information provided by Shannon Smith,
John's great-great-granddaughter
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