



## John HORSNELL [1812-1895]

Married

[1] Sarah Ann LLOYD  
on 3 October 1835 at Woodham Walter, Essex  
&

[2] Elizabeth SMYTH  
on 14 November 1848 at Church of St John, Halifax  
Street, Adelaide

Departed 18 March 1839 from Liverpool  
Arrived 6 July 1839 at Port Adelaide on the

## Lysander

### Children of John & Elizabeth:

Elizabeth (1850-1918)

John (1851-1852)

Lambert (1853-1880)

Mary (1854-1927) m Arthur WILLMOT

James (1856-1919)

Philadelphia (1857-1931) m David ROPER

Susannah (1859-1919) m Robert MURDOCK

Eliza (1861-1940) m Allison ROBIN

William (1862-1883)

Selina (1863-1882)

Gertrude (1866-1940)

Charles (1867-1931) m Caroline HANK

George (1869-1932) m Alice CONSTANDT

Henry (1871-1949) m Alwine KLAFER

## Hard Work Transforms a Shaky Start into a Fortune

In 1839, John Horsnell and his wife Sarah Ann set sail on the *Lysander* for South Africa. Due to illness on the ship, the Captain bypassed Capetown, and headed for Australia. Unfortunately John's wife Sarah died at sea of smallpox.

John arrived in Adelaide with smallpox, and was quarantined on the ship until he was well enough to leave. He walked to the infirmary on North Terrace to see the Colonial Surgeon Dr. Cotter, who removed all of John's finger nails and toe nails, supposedly to rid him of the smallpox. Heavily bandaged and collapsing from exhaustion, he was rescued by another emigrant James Cobblestick who himself had arrived the same day on the *City of Adelaide* and had organised his own transport.

James Cobblestick found John Horsnell his first job as coachman to Governor and Mrs. Gawler. It is said that John spotted the gully now known as Horsnell Gully and the sources of the Five Creeks whilst driving Governor Gawler along Coach Road checking on the progress of surveys.

At this time, John resided at Belair working on Government Farm, taking care of the horses and tending the gardens. His next move was to Waterfall Gully, where he grazed dairy cattle, prior to establishing a garden and grazing property at Woodvale off Third Creek near Magill.

In 1842 John acquired 10 acres of land near Magill plus the Gully, where he built a house and farm stocked with animals from the Government Farm, and established a garden and orchard with plants from the Botanic Gardens, donated by James Cobblestick.

John continued to purchase more land for lease in Ashton, Basket Range, Uraidla, Carey's Gully, Morialta and Deep Creek.

In 1844 when John was gored by a bull, he sought medical treatment from neighbour Dr Penfold, who employed him as his gardener until 1856. John planted the historic vines for Dr Penfold, which still flourish today. In 1848, John married his second wife Elizabeth Smyth who had been working for Dr & Mrs Penfold as a maidservant.



In 1860 John built a new home which is now part of the Horsnell Gully Conservation Park and has an onsite caretaker. The grounds are cared for by the Friends of Black Hill/Morialta group.

At the time of his death John Horsnell owned 1,420 acres of land, and left an estate valued at £18,209/13s/6d equivalent to more than \$2.5 million.

From information provided by Pam Skurray,  
John's great granddaughter  
March 2014

