



James Giles, The city of Adelaide from the Torrens near the reed beds [National Library of Australia 7342525]

George SCHRODER [1812-1880]

Married

[1] Frances SILVER

on 18 October 1833 in Paris, France

&

[2] Jane RICE

on 4 January 1841 at the Holy Trinity Church

Departed 12 June 1838 from London

Arrived 23 September 1838 on the

Winchester

Children of George & Frances:

Mary (1834-1919) m [1] John DUFF

[2] Henry HAMILTON

George (1836-1908) m Maria JACOBS

Richmond (1838-1887)

Children of George & Jane:

Martha (1842-1931) m Overton SPARKS

Alfred (1844-1924) m Catherine ROTHWELL

Harriett (1846-1940)

Hebe (1848-1916) m David FORSAITH

Henry (1851-1916)

Hubert (1853-1855)

Walter (1854-1912) m Florence CLARKE

Emily (1858-1868)

Euphemia (Alice) (1860-1915) m Henry CONIGRAVE

Moreton (1862-1946) m Eva HEDGES

Clement (1865-?)

Fanny (1866-1950)

James (1868-1933) m Ellen JACKSON

A Difficult Beginning to Life in South Australia

On 12 June 1838 George Schroder, with his wife Frances and three small children, set sail on the *Winchester* for South Australia. They had married in 1833 at the British Embassy in Paris whilst George was there studying architecture. Their first two children were born in Paris and a third child was born in Surrey.

Rachele Deane, one of the passengers on the *Winchester*, noted in her diary on 4 September 1838 that "smallpox ... seems (to be) gaining ground. There are two females ... very ill, one is Mrs Schroder." Then on 6 September Deane wrote "In the evening ... poor Mrs Schroder was no more...How much her poor husband is to be felt for with his three little children. What a sad blight for his future prospects".

In his application for free passage George listed his trade as "architect, surveyor, carpenter". By late November 1838 George had secured employment as a draftsman with the Survey Department, but Government cutbacks led to his retrenchment in March 1841.

On 4 January 1841, George married Jane Elizabeth Rice "spinster ... late of Hobart Town". This marriage would last 39 years and produce 13 children. However, many of these years were far from easy.

On 24 April 1842 George wrote to Governor Grey "with another petition for employment" stating his "last employment ... was cutting fire wood for the Government contract ...I have been compelled to part with my house and almost everything I have hoping the affairs of the Colony might change and am now reduced to my last not knowing which way to turn for the support of my wife and four children". Following this, George secured six months work in the Metropolitan Police Force.

On 16 July 1846 George wrote to the Colonial Secretary saying he had been renting a few acres of land "but unfortunately I was one of those who had their crops entirely destroyed by the locust in the Reed Beds (and) this obliged me to sell what few cattle I had to pay my rent & give up the land ... I find almost impossible to live having now a wife and six children".

By the early 1850s the family were living in Adelaide and by 1859 George had secured work in the Colonial Architect's Office as a draftsman. He was to continue in this work on an intermittent basis for his remaining life.

**From information provided by David & Paivi Forsaith,
George's great-great grandson and granddaughter-in-law
March 2014**

