

Matthew JAGGER [1803-1876]

Married

[1] Mary SENIOR

8 March 1826, in Kirkburton Yorkshire
&

[2] Jane DEPLEDGE

3 January 1855, in Sandal Magna Yorkshire

Departed 26 January 1839, from Liverpool
Arrived 7 June 1840 on the

Sir Charles Forbes

Children of Matthew & Mary:

Amelia (1828-1838)

John (1831-1840)

William (1833-1865)

Robert (1835-1914)

Ellen Mary (1836-1837)

Jim (1838-1896)

Making the Best of a New Life at Encounter Bay

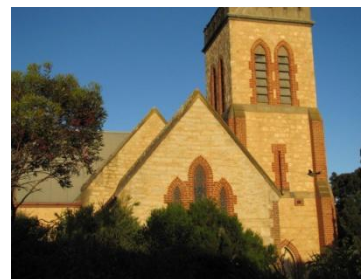
Matthew and Mary Jagger and their four sons joined the Reverend R W Newland's party of emigrants who left England in January 1839, with plans to settle at Encounter Bay. Newland had chosen settlers for their skills: a blacksmith, a stonemason, ploughmen and Matthew as shepherd. After arrival in Port Adelaide, some of the men travelled overland with an Aboriginal guide, four bullocks and some sheep and goats. They arrived at Encounter Bay exhausted and extremely hungry and were given 'badly cooked fish' by members of the Ramindjeri group. The rest of the settlers travelled on the coastal vessel, *Lord Hobart*, to Encounter Bay where they anchored in the lee of Granite Island.

For Matthew, this was the beginning of a remarkably successful life. He began accumulating land in 1843 with the purchase of eighty acres in Torrens Vale and 6 acres in Encounter Bay. When he died he owned thirty sections of land in Torrens Vale, Inman Valley, Back Valley, Waitpinga and Encounter Bay. This land was used for sheep and cattle grazing and cropping on a small scale.

Matthew Jagger had a great passion for his adopted country, so much so that in 1854 he returned to Yorkshire hoping to recruit new settlers for South Australia. In this he was successful, returning to South Australia with twelve family members and friends. The number included his second wife, Jane Depledge and her two sons.

Sadly Matthew lost his two daughters before they left Yorkshire and his first wife and two sons before his own death in 1876. In his will he bequeathed very generous legacies to many family members in Yorkshire and Australia as well as to the three local churches of Port Victor: £50 each to the Congregational, Wesleyan and Church of England plus an additional £50 to the building fund for the Church of England. His obituary published in the *Southern Argus* on 20 April 1876 sums him up very well:

"Our departed neighbour had a keen eye to making the best of this world. He had quite a passion for the acquisition of land, and was successful in gratifying it, his landed property being very extensive; yet I never knew a necessitous case appeal to him in vain."



St Augustine Church, Victor Harbor

From information provided by Pat Uppill,
Matthew's great-great granddaughter
March 2014

