



Thomas

MATTHEWS [c1810-1867]

&

Harriet HURD [1812-1865]

Married on 19 April 1831
at Pitney Church of England

Thomas departed on 12 August 1839 and
arrived 10 December 1839 at Holdfast Bay
on the

Robert Moffatt

Harriet and their children arrived later on the

Siam

Children of Thomas & Harriet:

Joan (1832-1909) m E M KERNOT

Harriet (1833-1907) m Sir William MORGAN

Elizabeth (Bessie) (1834-1864) m James COSSINS

Thomas Hurd (1835-?) m Harriet WHITEHORN

Arthur (1837-?) m Caroline TUCKER

Rhoda (1843-1853)

Mary (1844-?) m William DUNN

John Hurd (1847-1849)

Julia (1849-?) m Thomas WICKSTEED

John Hurd (1851-1853)

James John Hurd (1853-1940) m Janet McGREGOR

A Founding Father of Coromandel Valley

Thomas arrived alone in South Australia and lived for a short time in Adelaide. When he discovered that living there would not make him a prosperous man, he decided to move elsewhere and rented land at the head of Brownhill Creek where he milked cows and carried butter to town in a basket strapped over his shoulder. As his herd increased Thomas needed to find larger pastures, so he walked over the hills to Coromandel Valley where he later purchased an 80 acre Section.

The Matthews' first house at Coromandel Valley was 'Hurd's Hill', a four roomed broad paling dwelling with a dairy at the back. Thomas had been in South Australia for almost a year and the house was not yet complete when to his surprise, he received a letter from Harriet telling of her and the children's arrival in Holdfast Bay. Thomas and a friend went to meet his family's ship and his daughter Joan saw them coming - she knew it was her father because of his laugh.

Even in their new house the family was not safe or familiar with the dangers of the Australian bush - they frequently saw snakes! Their first years brought some disappointments but, by the summer of 1844, their herd had increased so much that they took a section of land near Angaston from Mr George Fife Angas.

Around 1846 the family went back to Coromandel Valley. The old house by the creek was improved and a room or



two added. Early in 1849, Thomas, with the assistance of John Weymouth began building a large two story house on

Hurd's Hill. This house was constructed by quarrying stone from the property and burning lime. All the sand and water had to be carted to the building sites by bullock teams.

Thomas was lonely and unhappy after Harriet's death and was suffering poor health. After his death, he was buried in a family crypt that would have originally been part of his cow's grazing land at Coromandel Valley.

From information provided by Tanya Lehmann,
Thomas' great great great granddaughter
February 2015

