



The (current) Wheatsheaf Hotel, Thebarton

## Thomas Finch OTTAWAY [1817-1867]

### Married

[1] Harriet HYDE on 29 April 1838  
at St Nicholas Church, Brighton, Sussex  
&

[2] Hannah (Anna) SMITH, on 6 April 1853  
at Christ Church, North Adelaide

Departed 11 December 1838 from Portsmouth  
Arrived 21 March 1839 at Port Adelaide on the

## Buckinghamshire

### Children of Thomas & Harriet:

George (1840-1896) m Jane MANN  
Jane Emily (1842-1921) m Frederick THOMAS  
Elizabeth Ann (1844-1899) m George William KENT  
Thomas Finch (1846-1892) m Mary Jane WOOD  
Mary Ann (1848-1919) m John Rhoades SAMUEL  
Caroline (1851-1852)

### Children of Thomas & Hannah:

Charles Albert (1854-1860)  
Walter (1856-1856)  
Walter (c1859-1904) m Florence WEIR  
Charles Albert Finch (1861-1937) m Ada WEIR

## *A Baker Turned Hotelier*

The decision of newly married Thomas Finch Ottaway to come to South Australia may have been influenced by his older half-brother George, who had migrated in 1838. Both were bakers, but as they couldn't get work, they took to building rammed earth (pisé) houses, completing about 100 in all.

In 1846 Thomas became the licensee of the Wheatsheaf Inn at Thebarton which had opened in 1844 immediately east of the current Wheatsheaf Hotel. In 1848 he moved to the Victoria Hotel in Hindley Street and became a keen racehorse owner, with races for various courses organised from this hotel.

When his wife Harriet died in 1852, Thomas married Hannah Smith just over a year later and built the Seaside and Family Hotel at Brighton, which opened for business in September 1860. By this time he was a councillor on the Brighton Council and a member of the Licensed Victuallers Society. He was also Treasurer of the Brighton Cottages Horticultural and Floricultural Society, a member of the congregation of St Jude's Church, Brighton and of the Loyal Brighton IOOF Lodge.

His second wife passed away at the Seaside Hotel in June 1865 and Thomas himself died in July 1867. The licence of the Seaside Hotel was then transferred to one of his older sons, Thomas Finch Ottaway.

At the time of his death, Thomas owned a variety of properties including the Wheatsheaf Hotel, two nearby tenanted cottages and allotments in Thebarton,



Twickenham, Brighton, West Mitcham and Finsbury Park plus two houses in Knightsbridge. Thirteen acres of his land near Port Adelaide were developed into a suburb of 97 allotments, but a mistake was made at registration and the suburb was mis-spelt Ottoway.

From information provided by Libby Ottaway,  
Thomas's great great granddaughter-in-law  
February 2015

