



Maria Fassnidge (née Goldney)

John FASSNIDGE [1813–1872] & Maria GOLDNEY [1813-1904]

Married on
22 September 1833 at Bishopsgate

Departed on 18 March 1839 from Liverpool
Arrived on 6 July 1839 on the

Lysander

Children of John & Maria:

Frederick Bowman [1836-1839]

John Osmond [1836-1879]

Anne Elizabeth Kingston [1838-1848]

Angelina [1841-1848]

Richard [1843-1848]

Hard Times for a Carpenter

John Fassnidge was born in February 1813 in Buckinghamshire, and like his forebears, was a carpenter. John married Maria Goldney at St Botolph's Church, Bishopsgate in London on 22 September 1833.

On 7 February 1836 twins Frederick Bowman and John Osmond were christened. Frederick died on 27th February 1839 and was buried at the Quaker Meeting House, Wandsworth close to where the family lived. A daughter Anne Elizabeth Kingston was born on 12 August 1838. Soon after Anne's birth, the family left Liverpool on an assisted passage on 18 March 1839 on the *Lysander* for South Australia and arrived on 6 July 1839.

The Fassnidge family lived at 31 Halifax Street Adelaide where two more children were added to the family, Angelina born 11 March 1841 and Richard in September 1843.

The year 1848 was a sad period for the Fassnidge family, as three children died within a few months. Angelina died from typhoid fever aged six, Anne of scarlet fever aged nine and Richard of scarlet fever aged four. Only son John Osmond survived. As husband John was working away from home at that time, it must have been a harrowing period for Maria.

With the refusal of the British Parliament to honour the debts of Governor Gawler, the colony of South Australia hit hard times and John found work difficult to find. As a result he left home but his actual movements are not known. Most likely he went initially to the Burra copper mines where a carpenter would have been most welcome.

Apparently John came home for a brief time and then left for California but only got as far as New Zealand. John apparently lived at Dunedin and in 1863 Maria moved there so as to be together again. Later John purchased land in Hokitika and moved there to take up farming, after spending his life as a carpenter. In one of these land agreements, John was joined by son John Osmond, and so the family came together again in New Zealand.

John Fassnidge died on 10 December 1872 at Hokitika, New Zealand, aged 59. Maria later moved to Takaka to live with her brother William. She died on 18 July 1904 aged 90 at the Nelson Old People's Home and is buried at the Wakapuaka Cemetery in Nelson.

From information provided by Don Goldney
John & Maria's great-great-nephew
March 2015

