



Front Door of Ada Villa

# David

## WEIR [1830-1913]

### Married Elizabeth Ann MANUEL

On 14 July 1852 at Wesleyan Chapel, Pirie Street

Departed 6 June 1839 from London

Arrived 25 September 1839 at Port Adelaide  
on the

## Prince Regent

### Children of David & Elizabeth:

Helena [aka Ellie] (1853-1943) m Frederick ALLEN

David (1855-1937) m Julia HINCE

Emily (1857-1880)

William (1859-1894) m [1] Emily GALLEY

[2] Henrietta REINCKE

Florence (1861-1933) m Walter OTTAWAY

Albert [aka Bert] (1864-1923) m Maggie HARRISON

Ada (1866-1938) m Charles OTTAWAY

A Son (stillborn 1869)

Rose (1870-1947) m John WATSON

Ethel (1873-1945) m Edward TUCKER

Lydia (1874-1942) m John TROTMAN

Clarissa [aka Clarrie] (1876-1925) m George BESLEY

Bertha (1878-?) m Charlie ANGELL

Harrison (1880-1970) m Hilda MARTIN

## *A Faithful Employee and Churchgoer Memorialised*

David Weir turned nine on his way to South Australia. In his reminiscences, he recalled being carried ashore by sailors and how one unpopular gentleman was 'accidently' dropped into the water. The journey from the Port to Adelaide took five hours in a bullock dray and a slice of bread and butter at Halfway House cost 1/-.

The Weir family were first accommodated at Emigration Square. His father worked as a baker in Port Adelaide and on high tide, boats would come up to his shop for supplies. David's mother died shortly after arrival, and his father soon remarried.

David had attended school in England, but only went for a few months in Adelaide before starting work at a grocer's shop. He attended night school and worked as a calculating clerk in the Assay Office before being employed by Archibald Jeffrey in his drapery business. This led to him being elected the Chairman of the Drapery Assistant's Association in October 1859.

After marrying in 1852, he and Elizabeth lived briefly in Koorunga (Burra). They later moved to Stepney and built their imposing home 'Ada Villa' in George Street, where it still stands today.

In 1861 David joined G&R Wills & Co's retail business and worked in the wholesale division as cashier for more than 50 years. In the 1870s he was President of the Warehousemen & Clerk's Assoc. In 1911 at a dinner for 250 employees at the Grand Central Hotel, David was presented with a gold medal for his service to the company.

David was a founding member of the College Park Congregational Church and a deacon and its treasurer until his death. The Weir Memorial Sisterhood was founded in his memory by the ladies of the church. Instead of erecting memorial tablets and windows at the church, the women visited the sick and afflicted in their homes and institutions such as the Children's Hospital and Home for the Incurables and used any money raised for their benefit.

From information provided by Elizabeth 'Libby' Ottaway  
David's great great granddaughter-in-law  
March 2015

