



State Library SA B3197

Reverend Ridgway NEWLAND [1790-1864]

Married

[1] Jane BENNING

&

[2] Martha KEELING

Departed in December 1838 from Liverpool

Arrived 7 June 1839 at Holdfast Bay on the

Sir Charles Forbes

Children of Ridgway & Jane:

Watts (1820-1913) m [1] Fanny TAYLOR

[2] Margaret EGAN

Simpson (c1822-1835)

Ridgway (1824-1849)

Sophia (1825-1829)

Children of Ridgway & Martha:

Martha (1827-1901) m Philip NATION

Sophia (1829-1872) m Henry FIELD

William (1831-1877) m Abigail (Abbie) LOWE

Catherine (1833-1874) m Alfred WEBB

Simpson (1835-1925) m Jane LAYTON

Sarah (1837-1922) m Frank MART

He Paved the Way at Encounter Bay

After training in the Christian ministry, Ridgway Newland took charge of the Congregational Church in Hanley, Staffordshire. After his first wife died, he then married Martha Keeling, a woman well educated in classical studies. After 22 years in Hanley, Ridgway was selected by the Colonial Missionary Society to take a party of 34 immigrants to South Australia. He purchased 560 acres of land, which entitled him to take 28 labourers who received free passage. On arrival, most of the party travelled by the *Lord Hobart* to Encounter Bay.

For the first two years the party lived in tents as they cleared the land and dug wells. Martha started a night school and Sunday school as well as educating her own children. A stone family home was built at Yilki Farm with a brick kitchen, malting bin, dairy and barn. Later Ridgway set up a steam-driven grist mill to produce his own flour.

In 1846 a church called the Tabernacle was built where Sunday services were held. Ridgway was also responsible for groups at Bald Hills, Port Elliot, Middleton, Goolwa, Currency Creek and Milang.

Involved in all aspects of life in the district, Ridgway was elected the inaugural Chairman of the District Council of Encounter Bay in 1853. He worked hard to improve schools, obtain roads and bridges and promote local industries. In 1862 to mark his 50 years in the ministry, a large celebration was held.

On 8 March 1864 Ridgway was returning from Adelaide on the mail cart when its shaft broke on steep Baldock's Hill and he was badly injured. He died before his family could get to him. The cortege at his funeral was over half a mile in length and businesses

in the district all closed for the day. His body was buried at the Tabernacle but later moved to Victor Harbor Cemetery.



The Tabernacle, Encounter Bay

From information provided by Elizabeth 'Libby' Ottaway,
great great great grand-daughter
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