



Image courtesy of State Library of SA [B11328]

Thomas BRINKWORTH [1809-1892]

Born 29 Aug 1809 in
Newington Bagpath, Gloucestershire

Married Elizabeth HARVEY [1814-1881]
4 May 1834 at Horsley, Gloucestershire

Departed 14 May 1839
Arrived 24 August 1839 on the

Somersetshire

Children of Elizabeth & Thomas:

- Joseph (1834-1895) m Isabella CLODE
- George (1836-1883) m Wilhelmina BELLING
- Mary (1838-1894) m Ernst SIEKMANN
- Jessie (1840-1917) m Fannie STAKER
- Peter (1842-1907) m Eliza ROE
- Daniel (1844-1884) m Sarah ROE
- Harriet (1847-1914) m John MOULE
- William James (1848-1932) m Mary Anne NOURSE
- Thomas (1851-1939) m Clara NORMAN

Broadweaver makes a new life in South Australia

Thomas began his work as a broadweaver in the Cotswold village of Newington Bagpath, Horsley near Nailsworth in Gloucestershire. After his marriage to Elizabeth Harvey (another broadweaver) in 1834 at Horsley, they had three children: Joseph, George and Mary. However, as there was no future for home weavers as a result of industrialisation of cloth manufacture during this time, he decided to emigrate after being persuaded by emigration agents to start afresh in the new colony of South Australia. He moved to London where he worked briefly as a tailor before gaining passage on the *Somersetshire*. He began life in Adelaide sawing wood in the government forests for six pence a day plus rations. When he had accumulated enough capital, he grew wheat at Nailsworth, where he lived before building a house (in 1842) at 39 Smith Street, Walkerville. While there, he was recorded (in 1843) as having 8 acres of wheat at "The Pinery". He was a founding trustee of St Andrew's Anglican Church at Walkerville, where two of his children were the first to be baptised, and was able to reserve a family pew for his ever increasing family.

In 1851 with his two eldest sons, Thomas went to the goldfields near Bendigo in Victoria, returning with sufficient gold (which he hid in the axles of his wagon to avoid being robbed) to buy farmland at Lower Light, which had been made available for settlement in 1855. Drought and crop failure here prompted him to move after three years to newly surveyed virgin land at Manoora (Chinkford) where he was much more successful as a wheat farmer. He became partner with his son-in-law Ernst Siekmann, who had married his daughter Mary, in the building of a steam flourmill in nearby Saddleworth. He continued to produce wheat at Manoora until his wife Elizabeth died in 1881, upon which he sold his farming assets and retired to live with his son Peter, also a wheat farmer, at "The Olives" in Gulnare. His other sons were also wheat farmers, one of whom (George) bequeathed land upon which the town of Brinkworth was established in 1892 as a railhead for wheat silos.



Brinkworth Silos [Source: www.panoramio.com/photo/40054352]

From information provided by Peter Brinkworth,
Thomas & Elizabeth's great-great grandson
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