



John SHEPHERDSON [1809-1897]

Married

[1] Marianne CRAIKE [1804-1858]

&

[2] Sarah GREEN [1820-1902]

Arrived 9 December 1838 at Port Adelaide
on the

Hartley

Children of John & Marianne:

Jabez (1828-1914) m Jane BINGHAM

George (1831-1907) m [1] Eliza SHEPHERDSON

[2] Eliza CLEMENTS

Rachel (1834-1883) m William RUNDLE

Charlotte (1838-1925) m William RENFREY

Susan (1840-1901)

William (1841-1908) m Eleanor MOLES

Mary Jane (aka Polly) (1842-1935) m John FORD

Robert (1845-1846)

Annie (1847-1871) m Charles FURNISS

Emma (1847-1870) m Thomas PLEYDELL

A Pioneering School Teacher

John Banks Shepherdson and his wife and family sailed from England on board the *Hartley*, reaching Adelaide in October 1837. Having a sound education, John was appointed Colonial Director of the South Australian School Society by George Fife Angas, who also arranged further training for him in farming, gardening and tailoring to ready him for setting up the first school in Adelaide.

On arrival, John with other leading colonists formed the South Australian School Society. He opened the first school in parklands near Trinity Church in May 1838 and soon fifty students attended. Although he was widely praised, he did not earn enough, despite offering adult evening classes to boost his income. On refusal of a passage back to England, he took up the position of Secretary of South Australian Cattle Co for a time until ill health forced another change.

In 1840, the family took up a property named Craike Farm near Nairne where he ran cattle and later bought a portable sawmill to diversify his means. In 1847 he was appointed Postmaster and Clerk of the Bench, and went on to become Clerk of the Local Court in 1850. However, these extra demands forced him to resign as Postmaster. He wrote *The Practice of the Local Courts of South Australia* and received many accolades for his ability and humane ways.

John's next appointment as Justice of the Peace, and Special and Stipendiary Magistrate for Yorke Peninsula was a fitting way to complete his life's education and work. The family moved into Weymouth House in Wallaroo where John lived out his days. His work in Wallaroo was also significant, as he established St Mary's Church and was a

member of Synod for 22 years. Sadly, Marianne died in 1858. In 1859 he remarried to Sarah Kellaway Green, and they spent their last years writing books of poetry and sonnets.



From information provided by Angela Kelly,
John's great great great grand-daughter
March 2015

