



(William) John

SMITH [1807-1877]

&

Ann

SMITH [1819-1890]

(née NEILSON)

Married on 24 September 1838 in Glasgow

Departed in 1839 from Glasgow

Arrived 9 December 1839 at Port Adelaide on the

Somersetshire

Children of John & Ann:

James (1839-1925) m [1] Isabella GRAHAM

[2] Annie GREENSHIELDS

John (1841-1915) m Charlotte KORFF

Alexander (1843-1903) m Jessie PATERSON

Ann (1845-1894) m John ROBERTS

Margaret (1848-1915) m Lt Col Richard ROBERTS

William (1850-1912) m Margaret (Maggie) BLAKE

Andrew (1853-1932) m Margaret McEWIN

Mary (1855-1855)

Jessie (1856-1872)

Marion (1859-1897) m Walter BLAKE

The Smiths of Smithfield

In the early 1800s the city of Glasgow was in the midst of huge industrial and agricultural upheaval, creating a massive influx of people. So when John Smith met and married Ann Neilson in 1838, they decided to migrate to Adelaide.

The Smiths established a successful bakery business in Hindley Street, but in 1839 decided to move to the Bay of Isles, New Zealand. They arrived in Kororeaka (now Russell) in June 1840. Tensions between the Maori and the British resulted in fighting and John was pressed into the militia using his 'blunderbuss', which was later donated to the Munno Para Council. Women and children, including Ann and her three small boys, were evacuated and eventually the family found their way to Hobart Town. Here, John organised shipment of a number of Clydesdale horses to sell and raise investment capital back in Adelaide.

After their return, John purchased many acres of land just north of Smithfield and built Smith's Creek Inn in 1847. The grant of a liquor licence encouraged the Inn to become a regular stopping place for bullock wagons, carrying ore from Kapunda and Burra and supplies from Port Adelaide. The much larger Smithfield Hotel was built in 1857 - called 'Smith's Folly' at the time, the hotel still operates to this day.

In 1854, John Smith bought a young elephant 'Tommy' to draw water to sell to the bullock teams at 1p per head. As Tommy proved too slow, he was relegated to ploughing paddocks until he was sold to clear scrub around Yatala Jail. The SA Railway Commission used him to haul sleepers during the building of the Adelaide-Gawler railway.

John's son, William, inherited the Smithfield property. The other children had properties at Fords near Kapunda, Brinkworth, Leasingham near Clare and

'Willow Ponds' near Gladstone. John Smith's descendants occupied the original Smith's Creek Inn, which reverted to a farmhouse until it was demolished in the 1970s.



Smith's Creek Inn

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

