



## Thomas GEPP [1809-1894]

Married Ann FRANCIS [?-1868]  
on 17 March 1840 at St Georges, Hanover Square

Departed 4 April 1840 from London  
Arrived 7 July 1840 at Port Adelaide on the

## Fairlie

### Children of Thomas & Ann:

Henry (1836-1871) m Emily WELCHFORD  
Sarah (1841-1907) m Charles MORRISON  
William (1843-1915) m Marion ROGERS  
Rebecca (1845-1890) m Charles MORRISON  
Thomas (1847-1847)  
Ellen (1849-1810) m Harry INGHAM  
Thomas (1852-1916) m Florence ROUNSEVELL  
Isaac (1853-1890)  
A son (stillborn 1856)  
James (1861-1861)

## Two Times a Migrant

Thomas Gepp appears to have emigrated twice to South Australia. According to the Duryea Pioneer photographs in the State Library of SA, Thomas Gepp was on the 1836 voyage of the *Rapid*, commanded by Colonel William Light. References, including an advertisement made by Thomas himself, indicate he was working in Sydney with the Colonial Government from 1837, although there is no definite proof of this. It is not known how or when he returned to England, but in 1840 he again emigrated with his wife and son. Similarly his relationship with Isaac Gepp, who also sailed on the *Fairlie* and gave his name to Gepps Cross, is not verified.

According to his obituary, Thomas was a smith and farrier, breaker and trainer, 3 years in Sydney and 16 years in South Australia. He was highly regarded as a veterinary surgeon who worked with the Government, making several trips overseas to bring back champion horses to improve the local livestock – he helped train the first winner of the Adelaide Cup.

After a brief visit to the goldfields of Victoria, Thomas spent several years in Jamestown aiding the breeding of champion racehorses. He was in charge of the stables and stud specially provided by the Government for the Duke of Edinburgh's visit.

Thomas and Ann produced 10 children, several of whom were influential in shaping the colony and exploring both South Australia and the Northern Territory. Henry, became a blacksmith in Willunga, gateway to opening the route to the Fleurieu Peninsula. William, also a blacksmith, joined Goyder's Expedition to Darwin, surveying the inland route. Thomas, became a magistrate and later Mayor of Norwood, being distinguished by his installation of the Town Clock.

William's son, Herbert, was knighted in 1933 after an illustrious career as a chemist, surveyor, industrialist, author and chairman of many concerns. His youngest daughter, Margaret (aka Mardi) was a pilot and flew Spitfire planes in England in World War II.

It is apparent that the pioneering qualities carried over many generations after Thomas (1809-1894) landed in Australia.

From information provided by Chris & John Sibley,  
Thomas's great great grandson  
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