

His Story is Found in Stones

Son of Joseph and Elizabeth Lewis, Samuel was baptised on 2 May 1813 at St Leonard's Church of England, in Bilston, Staffordshire. At age twenty, he married Caroline Lees whose parents, Charles and Mary came from Wolverhampton in Staffordshire.

Samuel was a stone mason and marble carver - occupations in high demand in the new colony of South Australia. He applied for free passage in 1839.

Until 1847, the family resided in Adelaide where Samuel operated the Adelaide Stone Works. The first two public memorials in the colony were contracted to and erected by Samuel. The first was a memorial to Colonel William Light erected in 1843 over the site of his grave in Light Square. The second was the monument to Matthew Flinders at Stamford Hill near Port Lincoln in 1844.

Samuel subsequently turned his hand to running hotels, including the Flagstaff Inn at Sturt. In 1855-6, Samuel constructed the old Clayton Chapel, which stands behind the present Clayton-Wesley Uniting Church at Beulah Park.

After Caroline died in 1862, Samuel married Mary Alexander, a widow. He went on to operate the Yankalilla, Theatre Royal and Eagle on the Hill hotels, where he kept an eagle in an aviary on the verandah of the latter.

Samuel's final years were spent residing at St Peters, where he died in 1896. He was buried at the West Terrace Cemetery.

His obituary in the Adelaide Observer recalled "The deceased, though he took no active part in public life, was widely known and popular".



Light Square Monument
[SLSA B2787]

Samuel LEWIS (1813-1896)

Married

[1] Caroline LEES (1813-1862)
on 8 August 1833 at All Saints, Sedgley, Staffordshire

[2] Mary ALEXANDER (neé SUMMERS) (?-1881)
on 18 February 1863 in the old Clayton Chapel

Departed 26 August 1839 from London
Arrived 19 December 1839 at Holdfast Bay on the

Moffatt

Children of Samuel & Caroline:

William (1834-1835)
Edwin (1836-1915) m Catherine BUTLER
George (1836-1919) m Jane PEDLER
Caroline (1840-1841)
Joseph (1842-1926) m Esther FLACK
Titus (1845-1921)
Unnamed son (1847-1847)
Alfred (1848-1925) m Susanna HOSKINS
Thomas (1851-1931) m Henrietta FRICKER



From information provided by Warren Lewis,
Samuel's great great grandson
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