



Portugese Civil War Veteran Finds Success in South Australia

Joseph STACE [1812-1874]

Married

[1] Eliza (1815-1837)

[details unknown]

&

[2] Sarah LEVETT (1821-1890)
25 December 1837 in Adelaide

Departed 3 September 1836 from London
Arrived 17 January 1837 at Holdfast Bay on the

Coromandel

Children of Joseph & Sarah:

Ebenezer (1840-1840)

James (1841-1842)

Joseph (1842-1845)

George (1844-1904) m Caroline SMITH

John (1846-1907) m Mary Anne NEWMAN

Frederick (1848-1849)

Emma (1850-1942) m Edward LILLYWHITE

Charles (1852-1915) m Ada RICHARDS

Eliza (1854-1889) m Rowland PURNELL

Little is known about the lives of Joseph, Eliza and Sarah prior to them embarking for South Australia. However, Joseph's obituary tells us that he fought in a civil war in Portugal in 1832–1834. All British soldiers who fought in that war did so as mercenaries, with England being technically neutral. It was a brutal war and Joseph was probably under siege in Oporto for two years in difficult circumstances. "His" side won, but just.

The *Coromandel* was the first major carrier of labourers whose passage was paid by the Commissioners for Colonization. On the voyage out, around a third of the passengers were stricken badly with scurvy so the ship put into the Cape of Good Hope for fresh supplies and stayed for about three weeks to enable them to recuperate.

Unfortunately Joseph's young wife, Eliza, (she was only 21) died shortly after arriving in SA and was "the first white person to die in the colony", being buried on 9 February 1837. Her likely burial place is in Torrens Square Glenelg, the current site of St Peters Anglican Church.

Joseph married Sarah Levett in Holy Trinity Church on Christmas Day 1837 just two months after she arrived on the *Hartley*. It is unlikely that they knew each other before embarkation.

By 1840 Joseph had purchased land at Finnis Street North Adelaide and built a house in which he and Sarah lived until his death, with most of their children living nearby. Joseph was an early financial contributor to the first two Wesleyan Churches in 1838 & 1839, then to the first Congregational Church and he was also financially involved with a breakaway Church. Their children became stalwarts of the Brougham Place Congregational Church in North Adelaide.

By 1851 Joseph had changed his occupation from brick maker to shoemaker. He became a person of considerable respect, especially among the "working men", as shown by him being unanimously appointed Chairman of an outdoor meeting in 1851 of around 300 workers at North Adelaide where the candidates for election to the Council addressed them.



Joseph died of stomach cancer at his home at the age of 61. Sarah lived for many years more, dying in 1890 aged 80.

From information provided by Brian Stace,
Joseph's great-great grandson
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