



William
SPENCER (1791-1854)
&
Maicey
SPENCER (néé COOK)
(1794-1864)

Married on 13 October 1816
at St John & St Martin, Beverley, York, England

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

Fairlie

Children of William & Maicey:

John (1817-1894) m Dinah RUSSELL
Elizabeth (1818-1891) m John HURLING
William (1820-1891) m Mary LIVINGSTONE
Anne (1822-1868) m Thomas COX
Cook (1824-1880) m Fanny FOYLE
Jane (1826-1915) m Samuel DAY
Hannah (1828- 1891)
James (1830-1877) m Margaret CHAMBERS
George (1833-1866) m Sarah FOYLE

A Pioneering Family of Morphett Vale

Times were tough in Yorkshire when William Spencer and his brave family embarked upon an adventure of a lifetime in 1840 when they took a chance on 'a free passage to paradise'.

During his life, William was initially a yeoman, then a grocer and finally a labourer. In 1816 he married Mace (later known as Macey or Maicey) Cook and settled in Cherry Burton where they had four children who were baptised in the parish church.

Around 1823 the family moved to Tickton, a hamlet in one of the two parishes of Beverley and about two miles east of the town where five more children were born and baptised.

No doubt due to the difficult times and having to receive financial relief from the Beverley Union in 1839, William and his four eldest children applied for free passage for themselves, Maicey and the five younger children to South Australia.

Upon arrival in South Australia, William, Maicey and their unmarried children took up 100 acres of land in the Reynella / Woodcroft area.

Their first home in the new province, as it was for many other emigrants, was on the banks of the River Torrens.

William first obtained work with the Government and was paid 1/6 per day and worked about a six day week.

In 1844 most members of the family moved to the Morphett Vale district about sixteen miles (25 km) south of Adelaide. Then in 1847, William obtained a grant of 80 acres of land in Hurtle Vale, adjacent to Morphett Vale. He farmed this property with the help of his sons until his death in 1854. Maicey survived him by ten years.

From information provided by Robyn Holthouse,
William and Maicey's great great granddaughter
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