



David BEYER (1815-1892)

Married

Jennet AIRD (1823-1898)

on 23 February 1849 at Morphett Vale

Departed 25 July 1844 from Nelson, New Zealand

Arrived 27 August 1844 at Port Adelaide on the

Joseph Albino

Children of David & Jennet:

Jane (1849-died in infancy)

Mary (1851-died in infancy)

Agnes (1853-1932) m William CLIFF

David (1855-1923) m Henrietta TILLER

Christina (1857-1932) m Henry CLIFF

Eliza (1860-1910) m Alfred CRITTENDEN

John (1861-1933) m Louisa RICHTER

Margaret (1862-1889)

Alexander (1867-1868)

A German Carpenter

Succeeds in a New Land

David Beyer left Germany and sailed to New Zealand for a better life as the economic situation had become difficult in his homeland. He then sailed to South Australia on the *Joseph Albino* along with other German settlers who had suffered hard times there.

He was a carpenter, and settled in Morphett Vale and married Jennet Aird, a Scottish girl who had arrived in 1847. Soon after the marriage, David leased land to farm in Morphett Vale and then purchased more land over a 20 year period in the Noarlunga district, now called Seaford. His main residence was located on the seafront at Seaford. In 1881-2, he allowed his land to be used for successful race meetings (where the Southern Racecourse had been situated prior to his purchase of the land).

David was elected to the District Council of Noarlunga in 1863 and continued to serve most years until 1878. He was chairman of the council for the majority of these years and also represented the area on the Central Road Board for a number of years from 1863. He often spoke out on issues such as immigration, education, free trade in the colonies and property law. He was naturalised on 10 May 1865.

As a farmer, David was one of the first to successfully experiment with a new hay-cutting machine in 1861. He also won first prize for the "best draught brood mare" in 1867 at the Willunga show.

From 1863 there was great concern in the area that the fertility of the soil was being exhausted. When land in the northern regions of South Australia was opened up a number of farmers and children of farmers left the district to begin a new life. Four of David Beyer's children took up land in the mid north to farm and only his daughter Agnes and her husband stayed farming in the area.

Around 1886, David, Jennet and their youngest daughter, Margaret, moved from the farm to live in a cottage at 37 High Street, Willunga. David lived there until his death in 1892. Jennet then left Willunga to live with her children in Baroota until her death in 1898.

From information provided by Shirley Frost,
David and Jennet's great great granddaughter
March 2016

