

South Australia's First Draytons

William Drayton and his family are believed to have boarded the barque *Diadem* at Plymouth. The 1841 Census accords the family the honour of being South Australia's first Draytons.

On arrival, his wife Rachel, who had not been well on the journey, was conveyed to the Colonial Surgeon's temporary hospital in the West Parklands. Perhaps she was also a founding patient of the new Adelaide Hospital on Botanic Road, which opened in 1841.

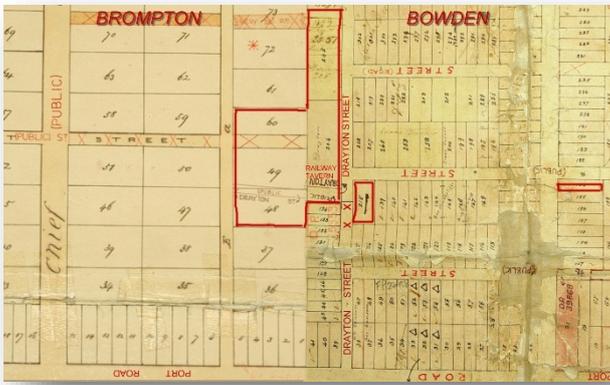
The family first settled on Port Road, Hindmarsh, as William worked his trade as a sawyer. With the Colony abuzz it is likely William was kept busy and he amassed some wealth. He purchased three acres at suburban Enfield, for £3. In 1848, he sold this for £20 and bought an allotment in Hindmarsh, the same year Rachel died. After the hardships of the journey to Australia and the loss of his wife, one might think William would have been discouraged. But not so! In 1849 he married Charlotte Hall, a widow, acquiring three stepdaughters in the process.

In the early 1850s, the lure of gold at Bendigo attracted William and his two older sons. After some luck he returned with renewed vigour. In his 18 years in South Australia he was active in buying, developing, mortgaging and selling property with over 30 transactions, mostly in Bowden and Brompton.

William's most ambitious venture was to build the 'Railway Tavern' adjacent to Bowden Station, capitalising on the construction of the City to Port Railway and also providing land for the street which stills bears the Drayton name. Licenced in 1855, the two storey stone house had seven rooms, a cellar, stable and large water tank. But unfortunately after only one year it had to be sold. By 1862, the 'Railway Tavern' and Drayton properties in Bowden had been acquired by the SA Gas Company and demolished.

William subsequently sold his remaining properties, and in 1859 he moved back to Bendigo. When he died in 1879, William's occupation was recorded as gardener.

From information provided by Carolyn Kemp,
William's great great granddaughter
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William DRAYTON (1791-1871)

Married

[1] Rachel HICKMAN (1794-1848)
in 1817 at Stoke-Under-Ham

[2] Charlotte HALL (neé TILLIDGE)
(1814-1898)

Departed 31 July 1840 from Plymouth

Arrived 16 November 1840 at Port Adelaide on the

Diadem

Children of William & Rachel:

Priscilla (1823-?)

Julia (1824-?)

Elizabeth (1826-?)

Melina (1829-?) m George MURRAY

Noah (1830-?)

John (1834-?)

Job (1837-1910) m Mary AIKEN

George (1839-1913?)

Ellen (1843-1846)

Samuel (1817-?)