



South Australian Police Constables
[State Library of South Australia B 3369]

Police Man who Recorded His Life in Verse

On November 19, 1838 Daniel Crosby, then aged 27, set out in the sailing ship the Planter from England on what was to be known later by his descendents as his "voyage of a lifetime".

Among the 120 persons travelling to South Australia on board the Planter, Daniel met his future wife, 20-year-old Emma Du Rieu who with her family and other relatives, were seeking a new life in a new country after being emigrants from France.

It was to be an arduous six-month voyage and Daniel witnessed a mutiny by the crew before reaching Rio de Janeiro, sadly followed by the death of Emma's mother who was buried at sea near Cape Town.

On arrival at Port Adelaide, Daniel soon took up employment in the newly formed Adelaide Police Force. As Daniel himself had been with the London Metropolitan Police Force from 1836, his qualifications would have put him in good stead for the job, and he quickly rose to become a sergeant.

Daniel often portrayed his life in verse:

*A Police Sergeant I became
Because in London I had been
And left the force quite free from blame,
Their stamp was on my papers seen.*

After leaving the force he became a private watchman employed by the householders of Hindley Street, patrolling shops and businesses. Later Daniel moved to farming at Prospect with his growing family before settling at Wallaroo as a carter for the mines.

*A piece of land at Prospect village,
Of which no good use I made,
I thought 't would better be for tillage,
And resume my farming trade.*

*My family kept multiplying
Until my place became too small
All I had I lost by trying to
Resist my downward fall!*

Throughout his life he lectured on English history at Glee Clubs for distressed families and charitable institutions and developed a lecture circuit.

It was at Moonta that he passed away on October 29 1885 and was buried at Wallaroo, where he had earlier in his life raised money towards the fencing of the Wallaroo cemetery.

**From information provided by Marjorie Brown,
Daniel's great-great-great granddaughter
March 2014**

Daniel CROSBY [1811-1881]

Married

Emma DURIEU [1819-1885]

on 22 June 1840 at Holy Trinity Church

Departed 24 November 1838

from Deptford Wharf

Arrived 16 May 1839 at Port Adelaide on the

Planter

Children of Daniel & Emma:

Emma (1841-1914) m Robert VAWSER

Lucy (1842-1900) m William BURPEE

Benjamin (1844-1915) m Elizabeth BRAY

Mary (1846-1932) m William WHITFORD

Luther (1853-1923) m Catherine DURIEU

Elizabeth (1858-1940) m Robert WINZER

