



Ups and Downs for a Hard Working Community Man

John

BARTON HACK [1805-1884]

&

Bridget WATSON [1806-1881]

Married on 9 July 1827 at St Helens, LANCASHIRE

Departed 3 September 1836 from Portsmouth
Arrived 11 February 1837 at Holdfast Bay on the

Isabella

Children of John & Bridget:

William (1828-1900) m [1] Grace STANLAKE
[2] Emma HARDING

Edward (1829-1904) m [1] Elizabeth WOOD
[2] Sarah DALL

Annie (1829-1839)

Louisa (1831-1865) m [1] Patrick TOD
[2] Hingston LINDON

Alfred (1833-1908) m Susan PENGILLY

Bedford (1835-1912) m Frances BISHOP

Emily (1837-1873) m Cornelius MITCHELL

Gulielma (1838-1839)

Lucy (1839-1840)

Theodore (1840-1902) m [1] Elvira ANSELL
[2] Elizabeth NANCARROW

Charles (1842-1915) m Annie MEYRICK

Francis (1843-1903) m [1] Marie BOLAND
[2] Mary PEDLER

George (1845-?) m Elizabeth JOHNS

Jessie (1848-1867)

Barton Hack, from a well-to-do Quaker family in Chichester, Sussex, decided to emigrate primarily because of his health but also as a speculator. Barton, with his wife, children, and his youngest brother, Stephen, sailed in the *Isabella*. They called first at Launceston, where they invested heavily in stock and equipment to get a head start on other settlers.

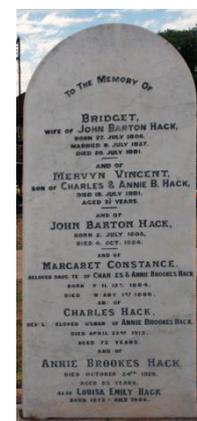
Squatting on parklands above the Torrens in two wooden cottages, they established themselves as merchants, market gardeners, dairymen and carriers, then lucrative businesses with almost no competition. They contracted for public works: the first bridge over the Torrens and a 'canal' at Port Misery. They bought further land in 1837 and built a house and store in Hindley Street in 1838. Barton concentrated on the merchant business and involved himself in public life. He was either chairman or a committee member of almost every society formed in the early years.

In 1838, the Hack brothers took a share in a whaling station at Encounter Bay, and they developed a 13-acre block in Lower North Adelaide, later known as Chichester Gardens, as a market garden.

When Governor Gawler opened up agricultural land by granting special surveys, each allowing the purchase of 4,000 acres, Barton took two in 1839. One on the sources of the Para was quickly sold; the other at Echunga became the first estate outside Adelaide. Echunga Springs was at the centre of 3,000 acres where some thousand cattle were run, milk and cheese produced, and 8 acres planted as gardens and orchards. A vineyard with thousands of vines produced the first wine.

The economic downturn of the 1840s found Barton dangerously exposed and in 1843 he was driven to insolvency, dragging his brother with him. Everything was lost.

For the rest of his life, Barton tried to recover his fortunes, but was constantly beset with reverses. He carted ore from Burra and managed mines at Kapunda, during which time he



converted to Methodism. He then joined with a builder in Adelaide, followed his workers to the Victorian goldfields, and became an accountant on his return. When his eyesight failed, he tried dairying on the Coorong at Parnka and sheep farming at Coonalpyn, both disastrous ventures. For the last years of his life he returned to accountancy, and was employed by the Railways Department in Adelaide for fourteen years until his retirement in 1883. He died in 1884 at Semaphore and is buried at Cheltenham.

From information provided by Iola Mathews,
a great-great-granddaughter of Barton Hack,
and Chris Durrant
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