



William CHAPMAN (1821-1892)

Married

Sarah DAVEY (1828-1887)

on 18 February 1852 at St George's Church, Gawler

Departed 25 July 1845 from London

Arrived 24 November 1845 at Port Adelaide on the

Templar

Children of William & Sarah:

Sarah Ann (1852-1852)

Bessie (1852-1852)

Sarah (1854-1855)

Emily (1855-1945)

Susan (1856-1942) m George COLE

John (1857-1943) m Jessie PLEDGE

Alice (1859-1860)

Reuben (1861-1938) m Edith MACKLIN

Earnest (1862-1946)

Randolph (1864-1940) m Mabel FORWOOD

Sarah (1865-1866)

Alfred (1868-1942) m Margaret PILLEFEANT

Horace (1872-1941) m Susanna HARRIS

A Pastoral Pioneer of Port Lincoln

William Chapman was the son of John and Mary Chapman from Glendon, Northamptonshire, and was brought to South Australia by George Fife Angas to take up the position of Overseer at Mr Angas' Flaxman's Valley, near Angaston. His father was a sheep farmer in Northamptonshire and presumably this is where William gained much of his knowledge of sheep husbandry and in particular, of what we now call 'Coast Disease' in sheep.

In 1864, William moved his family to the Port Lincoln area and took over management of Toolka (formerly Tulkea) Station at the end of Proper Bay. The property was then owned by Thomas Magarey, but about two years later was bought by William for £10,000 which paid...

"for the leases together with 10,000 sheep, 500 horses and 800 cattle. The cattle and horses, however, were practically valueless at that time, due largely to the isolation of the country and the extreme difficulty of mustering stock in the thickly timbered and stony areas. The bulk of them drifted away into the conditions associated with wild herds and mobs." Pastoral Pioneers of South Australia Volume 2

Around 1869, William located a mysterious spring of petroleum in the Sleaford Bay area, which lies to the south of Port Lincoln.

William was a respected sheep breeder in the Port Lincoln District and was called upon to judge the Sheep Shearing Match competitions at the Port Lincoln Show. In July 1889, he purchased additional land in the Hundred of Uley and the Hundred of Wanilla.

William died at Toolka Station aged 71 years, a colonist of 47 years. He is buried at the Happy Valley Cemetery in Port Lincoln.

Following his death, the station was run by some of William's sons. His eldest son, John, continued farming Toolka (Tulka or Tolka) Station until he sold it in 1913.

**From information provided by Sally Grundy,
William's great great granddaughter
March 2016**



A Hard Life on the Land



**Mary
BELL** (1833-1886)

Married

Thomas WILSON (1821-1889)

on 14 October 1850 at St John's Church, Adelaide

Departed 7 October 1838 from London

Arrived 23 January 1839 at Port Adelaide on the

Resource

Children of Mary & Thomas:

Cora (1851-1891) m Thomas HAYWARD

Leonard (1853-1898) m Sarah LEWIS

Harold (1855-1931) m Emily FERBER

Alfred (1858-1915) m Joannah KERSLAKE

Florence (1860-1948) m Cephas Barker KEEN

Bertrum (1862-1926) m Martha ROTHWELL

Rebecca (1865-1868)

George (1867-1949) m Alice FERBER

Luther (1871-1871)

Mary (1871-1946) m William McEWEN

Mary Bell arrived in South Australia with her parents, George, a timber cutter, and Jane, and her four siblings.

In 1850, at St John's Church, seventeen year-old Mary wed Thomas Alfred Wilson who had arrived in December 1839 aboard the *Moffatt* – carrying 316 passengers, the biggest number in any one ship to date. Thomas taught elocution at Mrs Wilshire's school, lectured, and wrote regularly for the *Farm and Garden* and newspapers of the day.

The village of Marion had been laid out by Colonel Light in November 1838. The land was cleared, and vegetables, vines, and other crops thrived in the fertile soil. Thomas' father purchased Sections 139/140 and 121 here in 1841 and named it 'Seaview Farm'. When Thomas inherited the property in 1856 it became an experimental farm where he invented a side draught to the reaping machine. He also became the first Chairman of the District Council of Brighton.

In 1860, and with their youngest child a year old, Thomas and Mary took up a pastoral lease north-west of Port Lincoln and established two sheep stations. Here, many hardships were experienced.

On occasion when Mary needed to travel to Port Lincoln over rough terrain, a feather bed was placed on a spring cart. They became friendly with the local aborigines and Thomas became known as 'the big white doctor'.

Unfortunately, severe drought during the mid-1860s forced them to relinquish these properties, and the family was on the move again. For five years, Thomas managed a vineyard at South Rhine near Mount Crawford.



Pulteney Street School, 1923
[SLSA - PRG 280/1/31/127]

All of Mary and Thomas's children attended the Pulteney Street School – taking prizes for poetry, writing and good manners.

From information provided by Margaret Lewis,
Mary's great granddaughter
March 2016





Thomas COWLEY (1826-1916)

Married

Rebecca BEVIS (1829-1926)

on 12 February 1847 in Adelaide

Departed in 1840 from Graves End

Arrived 17 June 1840 at Port Adelaide on the

Charles Kerr

Children of Thomas & Rebecca:

Sarah (1847-1926) m John WILLIAMS

Margaret (1851-1945) m Robert CORRELL

Robert (1852-1936) m Marion CHITTLEBOROUGH

Joseph (1855-1942) m Emily BEARE

Thomas (1856-1939) m Mary PARKER

William (1858-1941) m Elizabeth BEARE

Edwin (1860-1953) m Ada HILLIER

Jessie (1862-1958) m Fred I'ANSON

Mary (1864-1938) m Robert CHITTLEBOROUGH

Rebecca Morgan (1866-1867)

Rebecca Francis (1867-1961)

Alfred (1869-1959) m Lily RODGER

Caroline (1871-1957)

Ellen (1872-1873)

Ethel (1875-1974)

A True Pioneering Couple

Thomas Cowley came to South Australia with his Congregationalist/Non-Conformist parents Robert and Sarah in 1840.

Following his first job at the age of 14 at the Sir John Barleycorn Hotel, he tended cattle for Mr Nieass, six miles up the River Torrens. After two years, he worked for his father at Mount Barker, then for Mr Loud at Willunga. While there, he honed his bullock driving skills by carting the first steam boiler to be used at the flourmill at Noarlunga. All went well until he reached Tapley's Hill when Mr Tapley had to assist with an extra bullock team.

In 1847, Thomas married Rebecca Bevis and began married life at Edwardstown where he worked for 'Watty' Thompson, and drove one of the first Ridley strippers. They then rented a property on South Road near the 'Heart & Hand' and later at Reynella in 1850.

In 1852 Thomas and three others went to the Bendigo gold diggings for sixteen weeks, after which he sold his bullocks, bought a horse named "Billy" and rode home with five pounds of gold wrapped in a scarf over his shoulder. This was enough for him to buy 160 acres on Pimpala Road, Reynella, and to rent another 235 acres nearby.

Thomas and Rebecca became foundation members of the Happy Valley Congregational Church, where four of the family became church organists.

As land became more expensive, they moved to Willamulka three miles from Kadina and set up a farm called *Alabama* and helped to form another church and community. The couple retired and bought a home in Kadina in 1907 where they settled into community life and entertained their family until their death.

Both Thomas and Rebecca were true pioneers, raising a large family, toiling hard to make a go of it in their new land, forming communities that looked after each other and maintaining devotion to South Australia that never wavered.

From information provided by Raymond Cowley,
Thomas and Rebecca's great great grandson
March 2016





It All Began at Wadnama

Mary FISHER (1821-1906)

Married

John PLEW (1812-1862)

on 19 March 1842 at (Holy) Trinity Church,
Adelaide

Departed 5 August 1839 from London

Arrived 17 December 1839 at Port Adelaide on the

Duchess of Northumberland

Children of Mary & John:

Mary Jane (1843-1930) m Daniel KEMP

Thomas (1844-1922) m [1] Mary Ann
[2] Lucy BROWN

Ellen (1847-1890) m William FULLER

Eliza (1848-1882) m [1] John McNEEL
[2] William SUGDEN

John (1850-1908)

Hannah (1851-1908) m Charles BARBER

William (1853-1923) m [1] Louisa
[2] Maria ORCHARD

David (1854-1931) m Ann ORCHARD

Esther (1856-1933) m Samuel PARSONS

Margaret (1858-1944) m Richard ORCHARD

Cecelia (1860-1937) m Arthur NOCK

Richard (1862-1950) m Emily NELSON

Mary Fisher came to South Australia with her family on board the *Duchess of Northumberland*. They travelled on assisted passages and were housed in the cramped and unhealthy steerage section of the ship. Mary's first niece, one year old Anna, contracted diarrhoea and died en route, a tragedy offset when her sister-in-law gave birth to Mary's first nephew, Thomas, some six weeks later.

The Fishers initially seemed to have settled transiently in Hindmarsh and later at Alberton. At the time of her marriage in 1842 at Holy Trinity Church, Mary was living with her family at Gawler River, as was her future husband John Plew, a carter, who had arrived in South Australia in 1839. The first record of his existence in South Australia is his September 1840 purchase of land in the village of Islington, now known as Dudley Park.

The year 1847 saw the young Plew family living on the Wakefield Plain between Balaklava and Rhynie where John worked for Mr Robert Fry prior to starting their own farm, which they named *Wadnama*.

Wadnama began with a grant of land in February 1849 on the upper section on the Wakefield River about half way between Rhynie and Undalya. Their first house was on the river flat near a bend in the Wakefield River. As the family grew in number, so did the size of *Wadnama*, increasing from an initial 83 acres to 1200 acres by 1896. With a larger family came the need for a larger house built sometime after 1852 on rising ground near a spring. The new homestead was a large farmhouse with storeroom, dairy and cellars separated from the house by a covered passageway and surrounded by garden on three sides.

Sadly John died as a result of an accident in 1862, some four months before Mary gave birth to their twelfth child. Mary continued to run and expand the farm with assistance from her family until 1887 and lived at *Wadnama* until her death in 1906. Both are buried at Riverton.

From information provided by Deane Kemp,
Mary Fisher's great great grandson
March 2016



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
March 2016**



**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



The Gardners Who Became Farmers

John and Susan Gardner and daughter Mary sailed to South Australia under the free passage scheme. At the time it was reported in the "Inverness Courier" on 28 November 1839 that "this is the first ship which has sailed from the Clyde to South Australia". Daughter Susan was born at sea and her birth was registered on their arrival.

John had been a ploughman, and in the new Colony his occupation was listed as labourer from Thrushgrove near Glasgow. In their first few years, they lived in Currie Street and John worked for a time as a carpenter and a mounted policeman. Shortly after the birth of their third daughter Elizabeth in 1841 they moved to Magill to take up farming.

In 1849 they purchased Section 28, 29, 30 in Magill Estate for £25. After the birth of youngest son John in 1853 they sold their 2¹/₄ acres at Magill and bought 80 acres (Section 1155) in Hd of Yankalilla on Fleurieu Peninsula followed by Section 1156. These blocks at Bald Hills were named *Fannyside* after a mill in Scotland, believed to have been owned by a relative. They continued to acquire adjoining sections of land and by 1860 their land holding had increased to 344 acres.

John was a regular participant in local ploughing matches and the local agricultural show. Some of their children attended day school at Dairy Flat run by Rev Charles Lee, a Bible Christian Minister, when it opened in 1857.

The couple continued to farm and live at *Fannyside* until their deaths. Their daughter Mary never married and stayed to look after her parents in their old age.

Eldest son Robert purchased the property after the death of his parents and continued farming until his retirement in 1907.

John and Susan are buried in Yankalilla cemetery.

From information provided by Anne Gardner,
John and Susan's great great granddaughter
March 2016



John
GARDNER (1812-1870)
&
Susan
GARDNER (née PATERSON)
(1816-1888)

Married

on 29 November 1834
at Cathcart, Renfrew, Scotland

Departed 22 November 1838 from Greenock,
Scotland

Arrived 3 April 1839 at Port Adelaide on the

Welcome

Children of John & Susan:

Mary (1837-1924)

Susan (1839-1862) m Thomas TONKIN

Elizabeth (1841-1927) m Henry (Harry) COOTE

Robert (1843-1919) m Elizabeth NOSWORTHY

Andrew (1845-1881) m Elizabeth MARTIN

Jane (1848-1939) m John TONKIN

Margaret (1850-1901) m Job PEARSON

John (1853-1930)



A Pioneering Explorer Dies Young



**William
COULTHARD** (1820-1858)

Married

Marion BAIRD

on 19 January 1842 at Bull Creek

Departed 11 July 1836 from Spithead

Arrived 28 December 1836 at Holdfast Bay on the

Buffalo

Children of William & Marion:

John (1842-1908) m Johanna PRZIBILLA

Thomas (1844-1851)

James (1846-1910) m Charlotte DICKERSON

David (1849-1851)

William (1851-1922)

Thomas (1853-1940) m Elizabeth MILDREN

Robert (1855-1925)

Margaret (1857-1889) m Alfred FULLER

16 year old William Coulthard from Langholm, Scotland and his sister Jane left England aboard *HMS Buffalo* as assisted free passengers bound for the new colony of South Australia.

Jane married Edwin Stebbing in 1837 and died during childbirth around 1839. She is buried at Brinkley, south of Murray Bridge.

It is believed William went first to the Mt Barker/Bull Creek area, where he met Marion Baird whom he married in 1842. In 1844 they moved to the Hundred of Nuriootpa where they built a two-roomed slab cottage on the site of the present day Vine Inn Hotel. The 80 acre Section 156 was granted to William in 1850 for £1 per acre. By 1849 he had built and was granted a licence for a hotel, the Red Lion Inn, Angas Park, to cater for the growing population. William sold the licence in 1853.

Two years after the township of Nuriootpa was officially surveyed in 1854, Section 156 was subdivided. In 1855, William built a two-storey house in Murray Street for his growing family. He became a founding member of the Angaston Council and exhibited and judged livestock in the Angaston Agricultural shows.

In March 1858, while exploring in the Flinders Ranges for land suitable for sheep, William became separated from his two companions during a search for water, became lost and died. The Government Geologist, Benjamin Babbage, later found his remains about half a mile from a water hole near Pernatty Creek.

Marion was left with six children and the cattle run on Murray, known as Thompsons Station, and its stock were sold. Marion married Philip Paterson in 1862, had another three children and raised both families as one. Their two-storey house was completed and Marion's eldest son John took over running their farm at Nuriootpa. William and Marion's sons and several descendants continued exploring, opening up pastoral lands and contributing to the town of Nuriootpa and district.

From information provided by Anne Gardner,
William and Marion's great great granddaughter March 2016



Old Buck Pioneer

Robert Buck was 21 when he commenced service in the Royal Navy on the *Marlborough* in 1812. On this ship he sailed to the Chesapeake Bay region of Northern America during battles that are considered an extension of the Napoleonic Wars.

When the South Australian Company called for mariners and settlers, Robert and his eldest son, Robert, were selected to join the crew of the *Rapid* in 1836, along with Colonel William Light. As ship's cook, Robert Snr, would have soon changed the culinary offerings from pickled meats and porridge to parrot pie and fresh meat from the unique wildlife.

With settlement came the need to quickly provide port services, and the father and son became lightermen, unloading cargo and settlers from the incoming ships. They operated from land on LeFevres Peninsular that became known as Buck's Flat, where he also operated cold salt water baths.

Robert's wife Maria and four younger children arrived in 1839 and they settled into in the Port Adelaide district.

Robert was also a shipbuilder and owner. He built the first barge in the colony – *Phoebe*. Other boats built or owned included the *William Henry*, *Robert & Maria*, *Fame*, *Lady Young*, *Joseph lee Archer*, and *Young E B*. With these, Robert and his sons transported goods and people around the coastal ports of South Australia and Victoria. In 1849, he discovered the natural harbour at the mouth of the Wakefield River. Initially named Port Henry, it was later proclaimed Port Wakefield.

Robert and Maria were laid to rest in the old Albert Town cemetery, and are commemorated with pavers on Pioneer Walk.

[SLSA B39831]

From information provided by Heather Ernszt,
Robert's great great great granddaughter
March 2016



The *Rapid*, 1836 [SLSA PRG 280/1/38/68]

Robert BUCK (1792-1872)

Married

Maria ROBERTSON (1799-1857)

in 1816 St Paul's Deptford, Kent, England

Departed 1 May 1836 from London

Arrived 20 August 1836 at Nepean Bay on the

Rapid

Children of Robert & Maria:

Robert (1819-1895) m Elizabeth WILLIAMS

William (1822-1906) m Elizabeth HANNAN

Maria (1824-1918) m Samuel SMITH

Susannah (1831-1912) m William TAIT

Henry (1832-1900) m Mary MALONE

Phoebe (1840-1922) m John GRIFFITHS

Nathaniel (1843-1918)



[SLSA B39831]

From information provided by Heather Ernszt,
Robert's great great great granddaughter
March 2016





Darke of Darke's Peak

John
DARKE (1806-1844)

Married

Elizabeth CARTER

in 1840 in Adelaide

Departed in 1838 from Launceston

Arrived 2 December 1838 at Port Adelaide on the

Lady Emma

John Charles Darke, aged 18, travelled with two uncles, surveyor John Helder Wedge and Edward Davy Wedge to Van Dieman's Land aboard the *Heroine* in April, 1824

John learned the skills of surveying from his uncle and worked for the Van Dieman's Land government in the Survey Department in Hobart from 1833. After two attempts to gain permanency within the department failed, John sailed for Port Phillip in 1836. He took up land on the Barwon River and was present at the first meeting of the settlement of Port Phillip (later known as Melbourne) held at John Batman's home in June 1836.

In 1838, John answered the call of South Australia's Governor Gawler for extra surveyors and joined the Survey Department as Assistant Surveyor. He headed a large team that surveyed the River Sturt, O'Halloran Hill, Reedbeds and Islington districts but was not happy in his position and resigned in 1839.

John married Elizabeth Carter in 1840, but had no children. He practised as a private surveyor from 1839 until 1844 and then headed a privately subscribed exploration party (promoted and partially financed by John Bentham Neales) to explore land north-west of Port Lincoln on Eyre Peninsula.

John's exploration party of four departed Port Lincoln on 29 August 1844 with the object of exploring the country to the north-west of Port Lincoln and then crossing the Gawler Range to explore surrounding country. On 15 October they turned back, having gained knowledge of the country and proving beyond doubt that no land fit for settlement existed beyond the Gawler Ranges. A week later, when John was unarmed and out of his tent for less than a minute, a group of aborigines appeared and he was speared. The following day he died from his injuries.

John was buried in an unmarked grave by his party at the foot of what is now known as Darke's Peak. After his skeleton was located in October 1909, the Government erected a marble obelisk on his grave. Several plaques have been erected to commemorate his heroic pioneering exploits, including one in King William Street on the AMP building.

From information provided by Sally Grundy,
John's great great great grandniece March 2016





A German Carpenter Succeeds in a New Land

**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)

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

