



Normanville

Charlotte SIMMONS (née PIKE) (1801 - 1891)

&

George BUCKHURST

(1807 - 1881)

Departed 12 Sep 1838 from London, England

Arrived 26 Dec 1838 at Port Adelaide, South Australia on the

Prince George

Married on 29 April 1839 in Adelaide, South Australia

Children of George & Charlotte:

Amelia (1840 - 1842)

Alfred (1842 - 1928) m [1] Elizabeth STOCKWELL,
[2] Eliza MITCHELL

Margaret (1845 - 1905) m Charles DODD



*The last Hill & Co Coach
Courtesy the City of Onkaparinga Libraries
NRL-TR-36*

A Butcher, a Baker...

George Buckhurst and his brother John, from Havant near Portsmouth, where their ancestors were maltsters, arrived at Holdfast Bay on the *Prince George* in 1838. They were influenced to come to South Australia by emigration agent Henry Watson, who read correspondence at public meetings from his brother-in-law, John Barton Hack. Hack wrote encouragingly of the opportunities in the new colony. George was granted a free passage, with his occupation given as a farmer.

Also on board was a young, very recently widowed Charlotte Simmons (née Pike), a needle-woman from Gosport with her 13-month-old baby, Anna Marie. Charlotte was accompanied by her brothers George and Joseph Pike and their wives. They were met by Governor Hindmarsh on arrival and taken to Emigration Square. George and Charlotte married four months after their arrival. Their daughter Amelia was born in September 1840 in Queen Street, and was the 620th recorded baptism in South Australia. On the baptismal certificate George was recorded as a butcher. Sadly, Amelia died in January 1842. Their next two children, Alfred and Margaret, were born in Walkerville, an area which at that time had many abattoirs.

In 1845 George purchased Section 7, Stephens Terrace, Walkerville, on a subdivision of land originally owned by Governor Hindmarsh. In 1854, he sold the butcher's shop he had established there and opened up a butcher's shop at Normanville.

In 1862 hard economic times meant customers were unable to pay their bills, and George became insolvent. Also around this time, at the age of 18, his son Alfred became Hill & Co.'s coach-driver to Noarlunga.

In 1873, George sought, through the Butchers' Association, to reduce working hours for employers and employees. By 1878, he broadened his activities and became a butcher and a baker at Normanville.

George died in 1881, aged 74, at Normanville, so Charlotte took over the business, which by 1883 was once again a bakery. In 1891, aged ninety one, at her daughter's house in Wallaroo, Charlotte died.

From information provided by Ron Featherston, George and Charlotte Buckhurst's great, great, great grandson. March 2018





John Dunn Snr.

John DUNN Snr (1802 - 1894)

&

[1] Ann ROWE (1802 - 1870)

Married on 28 Dec 1828 in Devon, England

Departed 29 May 1840 from Plymouth
England

Arrived 6 Sep 1840 at Port Adelaide on the

Lysander

Children of John & Ann:

John Jnr (1830 - 1892) m Elizabeth WILLIAMS

Mary Ann (1832 - 1912) m William HILL

Elizabeth (1835 - 1928) m William PALTRIDGE

Eliza (1838 - 1856)

William Henry (1841 - 1891) m Mary MATTHEWS

[2] Jane Cork WILLIAMS

(1833 - 1929)

Married on 27 Feb 1872 in North
Adelaide, South Australia

Children of John & Jane:

Still born child, date unknown (1849 - 1849)

The Father of Mount Barker

Born in 1830 in Bondleigh, Devon, John Dunn Snr had a hard childhood. He left school at ten and worked as a farm labourer for 6 pence a week. He became an apprentice miller, eventually managing a mill. At the same time his wife Ann ran a small farm and raised four children.

He migrated with his family in 1840, settling first to farm near Nairne, where he built his own windmill in 1842 at Hay Valley. He later assisted in the building of the Ridley Stripper. In 1844 he built a steam mill at Mount Barker which was to be the first of ten mills which he built around South Australia under the name Dunn & Co.

He eventually opened over eighty mills in South Australia and elsewhere, making the company the largest milling business in the Southern Hemisphere. His business success meant he accumulated financial rewards.

Sharing his wealth, John Snr, a Methodist, was a great benefactor and philanthropist. From 1847, he donated land for local churches. In 1851, he helped build the original Wesleyan Methodist Church in Mount Barker. In 1856 he donated land for the Catholic and Methodist cemeteries, with his daughter Eliza sadly being the first to be buried in the latter.

As his wealth continued to grow, he was able to make larger endowments and gifts. In 1879, he built ten Salem cottages for widows and spinsters. In 1884, he built the Dunn (Methodist) Memorial Church (now the Mount Barker Uniting Church). In 1892, he gifted land to the District Council for a recreation park (called Dunn Park) and in 1893, he funded the Dunn Scholarship at Prince Alfred College (1893-1948).

John Snr, a JP and Church Trustee, also had a successful political career as a Mount Barker District Councillor and a Member of Parliament in both the Legislative Assembly and the Legislative Council.

He was rightly called "The Grand Old Man of Mount Barker".

*From information provided by Don Goldney.
March 2018*





Ann Dunn

A Pioneer Woman of Mount Barker

Ann Dunn (née Rowe) emigrated from Devon to South Australia with her miller husband John and four children in 1840. After farming in Devon, she began life in Adelaide bringing up her three youngest children in a box in the parklands, while husband John and son John Jnr went to Hay Valley near Nairne to purchase a farm and build a windmill.

In 1841, after a two day dray ride from Adelaide, Ann's fifth child, William, was born at Hay Valley in the unthatched humpy John had built for them. Ann was very strong physically and an energetic person, a decided advantage for a pioneer!

In 1842 the family moved to Adelaide and lived in Ridley's Mill until a house was built. In 1844 they moved to Mt Barker where they lived in the steam mill that John Snr built. As John Snr slept at night, Ann would stay up while son John Jnr kept the mill running. She was also responsible for keeping the mill business' financial records. From 1847, she was running a general store adjacent to their new home 'Mill House' because she felt the hotel was overcharging the residents.

With her support, John Dunn Snr built many more mills until he became the most successful miller in the Southern Hemisphere. Living conditions improved in 1858 when John and Ann moved into 'The Laurels', a substantial mansion.

Unfortunately, in 1861 Ann had a fall which injured her hip, rendering her disabled for the last nine years of her life.

In 1884, at substantial cost, her husband John built the Dunn Memorial (Methodist) Church in Mount Barker (now the Uniting Church) in memory of Ann. She is buried in the family vault in Mount Barker.

Ann ROWE (1802 - 1870)

&

John DUNN Snr (1802 - 1894)

Married on 28 Dec 1828 in Devon, England

Departed 29 May 1840 from Plymouth, England

Arrived 6 Sep 1840 at Port Adelaide, South Australia on the

Lysander

Children of John Snr & Ann:

John Jnr (1830 - 1892) m Elizabeth WILLIAMS

Mary Ann (1832 - 1912) m William HILL

Elizabeth (1835 - 1928) m William PALTRIDGE

Eliza (1838 - 1856)

William Henry (1841 - 1891) m Mary MATTHEWS



Dunn's Flour Mill, Nairne

From information provided by Don Goldney.
March 2018





Elizabeth and John DUNN

John DUNN Jnr (1830 - 1892)

Departed 26 May 1840 from Plymouth, England

Arrived 6 Sep 1840 at Port Adelaide, South Australia on the

Lysander

Married

Elizabeth WILLIAMS

(1835 - 1928)

25 July 1855 at Elizabeth's father's residence in North Adelaide, South Australia

Children of John & Elizabeth:

Eliza (1856 - 1857)

Edith Mary (1857 - 1857)

John Clement (1859 - 1860)

Spencer Allen (1860 - 1861)

John Howard (1862 - 1867)

Frederick William (1863 - 1946) m Annie HUMBLE

Hedley Allen (1865 - 1942) m Annie JORDAN

Alfred Calvert (1867 - 1957) m Ethel NEWMAN

Eustace Alexandria Andrew (1869 - 1928)
m Helena MACLEOD

John Stanley (1871 - 1974)

William Ernest (1872 - 1874)

Ethel Maud (1874 - 1965) m Walter GARDNER

Leonora Eleanor (1879 - 1960)

Gertrude Lillian (1881 - 1985)

Flour Miller and Missionary

John Dunn Jnr was born in Devon, son of miller John Dunn Snr and his wife Ann. He arrived in Adelaide with his three siblings in 1840.

John spent his early years in South Australia helping his father build flour mills, initially at Hay Valley and then at Mount Barker.

He had a special talent for drawing and was given the task of designing alterations to old mills and the erection of new mills for the family firm Dunn & Co. He was directly involved in the building of the steam/water mill at Bridgewater.

In 1862, he went to Fiji with the Wesleyan Methodist Overseas Mission and served at Fawa Harbor. He returned because of ill health. Prior to going he gave thirty six volumes of the *British Poets* to the Mount Barker Institute.

John built *Park View* in 1873 on Hackney Road, which is now part of St Peters College.

He assumed management of Dunn & Co. in 1888 travelling overseas several times to look at modern trends in the milling business.

He was a Member of the House of Assembly 1875-1877 and Legislative Council 1878-1888. While in office, during one session of State Parliament, his father John Snr, his brother William, as well as his brother-in-law William Paltridge were all members in the same sitting of Parliament.

He joined the Kent Town Methodist Church and through his long association with the Church was a Sunday school teacher, local preacher and class leader. Just prior to his death in 1892 he gave the church £2000 to pay off debts.

Flags were flown at half-mast in South Australia on his death. His was the largest funeral to that time with over seventy vehicles following the hearse. It was said of him that:

He knew how to secure wealth and how to use it without ostentatious display. In church, he was quietly, effective yet an ever ready & willing helper.

From information provided by Don Goldney.
March 2018





George and Jessie Marchant

A Sheep Farmer who Fathered a Flock of Children

George was nine when he arrived in Adelaide with his parents William and Eliza Marchant and his five siblings. The family had an eventful voyage in which the *Fairlie* was struck by lightning, lost masts during storms and leaked badly.

When his father William died only a month after arriving in South Australia, Eliza's half brothers, William James Browne and John Harris Browne, offered assistance.

The family first lived in an imported wooden house on East Terrace. George attended both Mr Drummond's School in Halifax Street and Rev T Q Stow's School in Rundle Street before starting work with his older brothers at his uncles' pastoral properties at Booboorowie, Wilpena, Mannanarie and Arkaba. In 1860 George took 1,237 pure-bred merinos to San Francisco, losing only sixteen.

George and his younger brother Frank visited Albany in Western Australia several times but as a result of the Great Drought of the 1860s George moved there from Arkaba in 1866. The following year he married Jessie Trimmer.

George held several leases at Hay, fifty miles north of Albany. He worked as an Inspector of Sheep (for scab), which earned him congratulations from the WA Governor. George and Jessie's first three children were born at *Strawberry Farm*, the home of Jessie's grand-parents. In 1872 Jessie saved her two year old daughter Eliza (Tinie) from drowning in a well and received a Bronze Medal from the Royal Humane Society of London.

In 1873 the family returned to South Australia, and their fourth child was born at Strathalbyn. They then moved to Mannanarie, north of Jamestown where eight more children were born. The family later resided in the suburb of Rosebery (Collinswood) where Jessie died in 1891. George then moved his family to Edwardstown and later to *Woodbrae* on Greenhill Road, Burnside.

George worked at various jobs, including supervising shearing at Wilcannia before he died at *Woodbrae* in 1905. George was the last surviving child of the six Marchant children who arrived in 1840.

From information provided by Libby Ottaway, George and Jessie Marchant's great grand-daughter. March 2018

George Bradley MARCHANT Sr (1831 - 1905)

Departed 4 April 1840 from London,
England

Arrived 7 July 1840 at Port Adelaide, South
Australia on the

Fairlie

Married

Jessie Emily TRIMMER

(1847 - 1891)

4 April 1867 in Albany, Western Australia

Children of George & Jessie:

Spencer Frederick (1868 - 1939) m Elizabeth
Margaret GALLOP

Eliza Sophia (1870 - 1957)

William Arthur (1872 - 1920) m Isabel Musgrove
WARD

George Lavington Jnr (1874 - 1949)

Tom Octavius (1875 - 1958) m Lena Grace
RICHARDSON

Arthur Trimmer (1877 - 1896)

Mary Ann May (1879 - 1957)

Octavia Bridget (1881 - 1972)

Malcolm John (1883 - 1957) m Alison Patience
FIELD

Lucy Amy (1884 - 1936)

Jessey Jean (1886 - 1950) m Gordon Fenner TRIPP

McCord (1889 - 1960)

Dorothy May (1890 - 1979)





Daniel and Mary Cudmore

Daniel Michael Paul CUDMORE Snr (1811 - 1891)

&

Mary NIHILL (1811 - 1893)

Married in Jan 1835, County Limerick,
Ireland

Departed 11 Feb 1835 from Liverpool,
England

Arrived 8 Jun 1835 in Hobart Town, Van
Diemen's Land on the

John Dennison

Arrived in South Australia from Van
Diemen's Land in 1837

Children of Daniel & Mary:

Dymphna Maria (1836 - 1899) m Sydney YEATES

James Frances (1837 - 1912) m Margaret BUDGE

Mary Jane (1839 - 1909)

Margaret Alice (1842 - 1871) m George AGARS

Daniel Henry Cashell Jnr (1844 - 1913) m

[1] Harriet Garrett SMEDLEY,

[2] Martha Earle McCracken

Sarah Elizabeth (1846 - 1930) m Dr John SPROD

Robert Milo (1848 - 1849)

Milo Robert (1852 - 1913) m Constance

ALEXANDER

Arthur Frederick (1854 - 1919) m Annettie Matilda

BROOKE

An Enterprising Businessman and Pastoralist

Quaker Daniel Cudmore married Mary Nihill, both from County Cork, just before sailing to Hobart Town, Van Diemen's Land in 1835. Here he became a clerk and schoolmaster in the town of Ross before taking a brewer assistant position at Degraeve's (Cascade) Brewery in Hobart Town. In 1837 Daniel sailed to South Australia, leaving Mary and baby Dymphna behind. By the time Mary was reunited with Daniel in Adelaide, she had given birth to their son James on board the *Siren* en route from Hobart Town.

The family firstly lived in a pisé hut on the banks of the River Torrens near where Government House now stands. Daniel built Lion Brew House and gave advice to other brewery businesses.

In 1844 the family moved to Modbury, where Daniel took up sheep farming. In 1847, he received an inheritance from Ireland and used the proceeds to establish *Yongala Station*. *Yongala Station*, a sheep run of 80 square miles, was capable of running 17,600 sheep. Leaving Mary and family at the homestead Daniel set off to explore further pastoral opportunities.

Daniel established holdings at Pinda, Beautiful Valley, Paringa and Oakvale. He left his sons to manage these properties while he moved further east. He developed holdings at the Great Darling Anabranche; Avoca and Popiltah in western New South Wales and Milo, Welford Downs and Boondoon and Tara Stations in Queensland. In 1864, he purchased a property near Glen Osmond, which he extended, renaming it 'Claremont'. This was where he finally retired, leaving his sons (the Cudmore Brothers) to manage the family holdings, which now stretched across three colonies. Daniel wrote of his explorations and published in 1882 an account entitled '*A Few Poetical Scraps from the Portfolio of an Australian Pioneer*'.

Daniel and Mary are buried in the Mitcham Church of England Cemetery. An inscription on their memorial reads:

'We seek a realm beyond lifes narrow bourne; where all is love and none are made to mourn.'

From information provided by Pauline and Paul Cudmore, Daniel Cudmore's great, great grandchildren. March 2018





John Fidge c1871

A Man of Vision

The picturesque village of Bearsted near Maidstone in the county of Kent had been the home of the Fidge family since the 1700s. John Fidge was the eldest of five children born to Richard and Elizabeth Fidge. In 1827 John married Harriett Bourn in the Church of the Holy Cross, where his parents had also married. During the next nine years John and Harriet had six sons, but Charles sadly died in infancy.

By mid-1839, John had applied to emigrate to South Australia, his occupation given as 'shepherd'. The family of seven arrived at Port Misery on 19th Dec 1839. A family story, fondly told, is that they arrived with '*five sons and five sovereigns*'.

They first lived at Reedbeds, but by 1841, they had taken up land at Whites Gully. Their seventh son Thomas arrived in 1841 and was the first Fidge child born in the province, with his birth registered at Willunga. Two daughters arrived in 1844 and 1846, completing the family.

In 1846, John and family took up land at Para Plains (now Salisbury) and built a large home at '*Riverdale Farm*'. In 1856, John purchased eighteen building allotments on the western side of the Salisbury Railway Station and in 1857 the '*Governor MacDonnell Hotel*' and twenty-one acres nearby. In 1858, John purchased more land at O.B. Flat in the southeast, which provided a home and livelihood for family members.

John travelled to England in the 1860s, returning in 1867. A few years later both John & Harriett, with their two daughters visited England, sailing home in 1871. Both return journeys were on the ship the *City of Adelaide*.

By 1875 John & Harriett had retired to live in Kent Town but soon moved to 74 Ward Street, North Adelaide. Harriett died on 25th October 1879 and John on Christmas Day 1880, both interred in the West Terrace Cemetery. Their *five sovereigns* increased through diligence and hard work.

From information provided by Ken Jacobs, John Fidge's, great, great, great grandson. Ken maintains contact with Fidge descendants who still live in Kent, England. March 2018.

John FIDGE Snr (1807 - 1880)

&

Harriett BOURN (c 1804 - 1879)

Married on 12 May 1827 in Bearsted, Kent, England

Departed 6 Aug 1839 from London, England

Arrived 19 Dec 1839 at the Old Port (Port Misery), South Australia on the

Duchess of Northumberland

Children of John & Harriett:

Lewis (1827 - 1895) m Elizabeth Knight WINZOR

George (1828 - 1917) m Jane HANCOCK

John Jnr (1830 - 1913) m Emma WHITE

Charles (1832 - 1835)

Stephen (1834 - 1905) m Ellen WARE

Frederick (1835 - 1899) m Mary Ann WINN

Thomas (1841 - 1906) m Susan Ellen BALLARD

Harriet (1844 - 1875)

Eleanor (1846 - 1932) m Edward CRITTENDON





*William Rains from Early Colonists Portrait
Courtesy SLSA, B 47769 22 Q*

A Man of Many Parts

William Rains was born on 30 January 1811 at Little Addington, Northamptonshire, England. With his wife Sarah (née Perkins) he arrived in South Australia on the *Navarino* on 6 December 1837. He quickly established himself as a feisty businessman who was actively interested in the community, including local government issues such as road improvements.

Between 1841 and 1854 his businesses included a store in Kermode Street, a bakery in Rundle Street next to J & T Waterhouse, a butchery at Dry Creek to capture the Burra trade, and a bakery at Albert Town advertising 'biscuits for the diggings at 25/s per cwt.'

He was the licensee of the Cross Keys Inn on Port Wakefield Road 1854-1858 and the Royal Admiral Hotel in Hindley St 1859-1861. In 1862-



*Cross Keys Hotel Dry Creek
Courtesy SLSA B-15893*

1865 his trade was recorded as a merchant and wine merchant.

In the early 1850s he separated from his wife Sarah and began a relationship with Ann Beach whom he married on Sarah's death in 1871.

In December 1868 he successfully tendered for the Hindmarsh toll gate which he managed for two years. He was continually frustrated by issues of toll evasion during this time.

Although William Rains was a member of the Hindley St Baptist Chapel in 1847 and a signatory to a petition opposing state interference in religion, he went on to become one of the founding members of the Adelaide Secular and Free Discussion Society which was established c1876.

William Rains and his son John both attended the Old Colonists' Banquet in 1871 and their images are included in the photographic collage of the early colonists.

In 1874-75 William was proprietor of a bakery in Hindley Street, Adelaide.

William died on 3rd January 1886 at his residence at Dry Creek and is buried at West Terrace Cemetery.

*From information provided by Helen Stagg,
William Rains' great, great grand-daughter.
March 2018*

William Henry RAINS Snr

(1811 - 1886)

&

[1] Sarah PERKINS (1815 - 1871)

Married on 24 Dec 1834 in Little Addington, Northamptonshire, England

Departed 26 Aug 1837 from Gravesend, London, England

Arrived 6 Dec 1837 at Old Port (Port Misery) South Australia on the

Navarino

Children of William & Sarah:

John (1839 - 1907) m Mary Ann SPECK

Jane (1841 - 1916) m Thomas DAVIS

Ophelia (1843 - 1905) m George WHITEHEAD

Anne Selina (1845 - 1846)

William Henry Jnr (1846 - 1847)

Eliza Ann (1849 - 1941) m Thomas GLYNN

William Henry Jnr (1850 - 1926)

Charlotte (1853 - 1938) m Carlo COLEY

Eleanor Alma (1855 - 1856)

[2] Ann BEACH (née

WILLESEE) (1832 - 1915)

Married on 4 Feb 1871 at Registry Office, in Adelaide, South Australia

Children of William & Ann:

Lucelle Tryphinia (1860 - 1942) m William BENSTEAD

Lelia Annie (1863 - 1938) m Carl HUPPERDEN

Frederick Donale (1865 - 1869)

Cornelia Lurline (1867 - 1949) m Joseph SKINNER

Donale Haines John (1869 - 1944) m Avis ROWE

Florence Christiana Gertrude (1872 - 1942)

m Claude SAUNDERS





Peter Larns Darcy Hunter

Peter Larns Darcy HUNTER

(1808 - 1893)

[1] Jane (family name unconfirmed)

Children of Peter & Jane:

Thomas Francis (1833 - 1882)

Cecelia (1837 - 1916)

[2] Eliza MALCOLM

(c 1823 - 1867)

Married in 1839 in Cork, Ireland

Peter & Eliza departed 4 Jan 1840 from London, England

Arrived 14 May 1840 at Port Adelaide, South Australia on the

Eliza

Children of Peter & Eliza:

William (1840 - unknown) m Fanny HEAD

Sarah (1842 - 1905) m William RANKINE

Richard Lorens (1843 - 1914) m Jane JOHNSON

Ellen (1844 - 1930) m [1] Michael WARDLE

[2] Joseph Dundas DENHOLM

Mariah (1848 - 1927) m Henry ELLIOTT

Edward (1850 - 1861)

Eliza (1852 - 1877) m Joseph Charles MUSSARED

[3] Elizabeth LEWIN nee

DAVIS (1823 - 1887)

[4] Emma DRAYTON nee

COLE (1850 - 1929)

Child of Peter & Emma:

Celia Grace (1888 -)

Through Tragedy and Triumph

In 1840, Peter Hunter, a 32-year-old Irish Scot, left his employ as a policeman in Cork, Ireland for a new life in the colony with his second wife Eliza.

After a brief stint as Overseer for the Government Works in Adelaide, he began farming first in McLaren Vale, then Port Elliot in 1844.

Always active in the local community, in 1854 Peter was on the Board of Trustees to build St Judes, the first church in Pt Elliot, and later St James Church, Glenburn (Delamere).

By 1854, with seven children, the family moved to Second Valley. Tragedy struck in 1861 when their two-storey house caught fire and their 11-year-old son Edward died.

In 1866, when silver was found near Delamere, the Talisker Mine was opened. To cater for the miners Peter built the Silverton Hotel where workers came to drink and to buy food and supplies at his general store.

After wife Eliza's died in 1867, Peter kept busy managing pubs. A year later he married a widow Elizabeth Lewin, who had taken over the lease of the Green Dragon Hotel on South Terrace, Adelaide. They lived in



*The Green Dragon Hotel c1939
Courtesy SLSA - B 8595*

Edwardstown until she died in 1887. Seventy nine-year-old Peter married young widow Emma Drayton later that year, but they soon separated. They had a daughter Celia.

Peter put their house and all its goods up for sale, intending to live with his daughter Sarah. Fire caused havoc during the sale when a haystack of about forty tons burned to the ground. Luckily it was insured for £60.

Police Records report Peter missing in 1891, having left his new home in Marion on December 12, 1889. He was found in Seymour, Victoria, having possibly gone to see his son Richard.

He died in 1893, at his daughter Sarah's home, Morphett-Street, Adelaide.

The two children from Peter's first marriage came to South Australia to join their father.

*From information provided by Sue Fox, Peter Hunter's three times great grand-daughter.
March 2018*





Robert Snr and Ruth Fox

From Humble Beginnings

Robert, son of Lazarus Fox and Mary Wallis of Orlingbury, Northamptonshire, arrived with his cousin Warwick Langley in 1836 aboard HMS *Buffalo* with Governor Hindmarsh, and was among the first settlers of South Australia.



Robert Fox' dining table brought from England on the HMS *Buffalo*

Robert FOX Snr (1811 - 1885)

Departed 1836 from Portsmouth, England

Arrived 28 Dec 1836 at Holdfast Bay, South Australia on the

HMS *Buffalo*

Married

Ruth FARNHAM (c 1831 - 1918)

10 April 1850 at Holy Trinity Church, Adelaide, South Australia

Children of Robert & Ruth:

Robert John Jnr (1853 - 1939) m Louisa HANSON

Owen (1856 - 1890) m Anna GERHARDY

Mary Ann (1858 - 1945) m Henry CARN

James (1860 - 1936) m Otilie Emma Anna KLAR

Jane (1860 - 1890) m [1] Reinholt LEHMAN,
[2] Arthur MASON

David (1862 - 1941) m Elizabeth MASON

Ruth (1864 - 1951) m Henry SASS

Charles (1866 - 1951) m Emily STEIKE

Albert (1868 - 1933) m A STEIKE

Alice (1870 - 1964) m William MARCHANT

Frederick (1873 - 1950) m Bertha MUEHLBERG

Reuben (1873 - 1966) m Wilhemina KLAER

Twenty five-year-old woodsman Robert's first task was to build a reed hut for Governor Hindmarsh. His first glimpse of Aborigines was seeing their curious faces through the reeds lining the River Torrens. At the Town Acre auction on 28 March 1837, the cousins bought adjoining acre blocks at 648 and 649 Gilles Street, Adelaide. They each later bought a 50 acre block at Victor Harbour where the capital was expected to be established, but sold after being told the city would be founded on its present site.

In 1850 Robert married Ruth, daughter of Giles and Caroline Farnham who had migrated from Devonshire in 1847.

The couple were among the first settlers in the Cudlee Creek district, raising twelve children, including two sets of twins, between 1853 and 1873.

According to family history, Robert was employed by the army to take provisions in his bullock team to the Victorian goldfields. On the way home, his party of three was ambushed and one man was knifed. Robert escaped, but lost his belongings, including his hard-earned gold sovereigns, payment for the journey. They didn't make the same mistake again, sitting in the tent at night by lantern light so their shapes could not be seen from the outside. During Robert's absences, Ruth managed their farm which produced fruit, vegetables and dairy. She walked her produce to the Adelaide market.

Robert died aged 74, on 8 September 1885 at his home on Fox Creek Road, Cudlee Creek.

This prolific family now has nearly 250 descendants. A family reunion at the Botanic Gardens in 1978 celebrated SA's 150th anniversary.

From information provided by Sue Fox, on behalf of Rob Fox, Robert Fox' great, great grandson. March 2018

