

2.1 FOUNDING OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA¹

In 1833 the South Australian Association was established to lobby the Government for the establishment of a colony in South Australia. Shortly after on 15 August 1834 the South Australia Act 1834 was passed which provided for the settlement, sale of lands, funding of the venture and detailing the governance of Commissioners.²

The colony of South Australia was to be based on Edward Gibbon Wakefield's theory of colonization which would see Crown land sold to immigrants with the proceeds being used to finance the immigration of new settlers and so build the colony with free labour as distinct from convicts.

On 5 May 1835, eleven commissioners were appointed to control the sales of land and the administration of revenue. Colonel Robert Torrens was appointed as Chairman. On 21 January 1936 Captain John Hindmarsh was appointed the first Governor of South Australia.

Sales of land proved difficult and **The South Australian Company**, which was formed on 15 October 1835 to develop and build the new settlement in South Australia, purchased the thirty five thousand Pounds worth of land that was required for settlement to proceed. The Company provided basic infrastructure for the new colony, as well as sold or leased land to immigrants who came to settle.

The founding shareholders were George Fife Angas, Thomas Smith and Henry Kingscote, who were soon accompanied by some 300 additional shareholders. Among these were John Rundle, Charles Hindley, Raikes Currie, John Pirie and Henry Waymouth, whose names are now found on Adelaide's city streets.

In January 1836 four ships chartered by the South Australian Company sailed for South Australia .On February 22, the ship *John Pirie* set sail with 24 passengers on board; on 24 February the ship *Duke of York* with 42 passengers; on March 30 the ship *Lady Mary Pelham* with 29 passengers and the fourth ship, the *Emma*, left London with 22 passengers on April 21. All four ships of the South Australia Company arrived at Nepean Bay on Kangaroo Island. The *Duke of York* on 27 July, *Lady Mary Pelham* on 30 July, *John Pirie* on 16 August and the *Emma* on 5 October.

A settlement was developed at Kingscote on Kangaroo Island but when farming proved unviable, the settlement was moved to the mainland.

On 4 February 1836, Colonel William Light was appointed as Surveyor General and a month after the arrival of the ships in July 1836, he arrived to survey the area around Nepean Bay and to also explore the coast to find a suitable harbour. It was not until 30 December 1836 that Governor Hindmarsh visited the site Colonel Light had chosen on the mainland for Adelaide. At that time the population of South Australia was 546 Europeans.

1837, was to be the major year of foundation for the new settlement. Colonel Light started surveying Adelaide into 1042 "Town acres" in January and finished on 10 March with the first allotments of land finalized on 27 March 1837. Street names were finalized on 23 May. The year also saw the establishment of the first newspaper, the Supreme Court of South Australia and the Public Hospital on North Terrace. By year end the colony had a population of 3,270 which included **Samuel and Mary Ann** and their two children Stephen and Sophia who had arrived in Port Adelaide on the ship *Navarino* on 6 December 1837.

¹ The Pioneers Association of South Australia Inc. www.pioneersssa.org.au

² Wikipedia.com

Samuel applied for a free passage to South Australia and his name is recorded in the Register of Emigrant Labourers as No. 1294 on 4 August 1837. His place of residence is shown as Heytesbury, his age as 28 (this indicates that his birth was between this date and his christening on 12 November 1808) and his wife's as 24 with a boy aged 7 years and a girl aged 3 years. They had been allocated to the *Navarino* with Embarkation No. 676.

Register of Emigrant Labourers applying for a Free Passage to SOUTH AUSTRALIA.

| No. | Application made to | Date of Entry | Name | Trade or Calling | Residence |
|------|---------------------|---------------|-----------------------------|------------------|------------------------------|
| 1291 | Superintendent | August 2 | Henry Donnelly | Labourer | 33 Pineshill all St. Vincent |
| 1292 | " | " | Thomas Moran | " | 21 Street St. L. |
| 1293 | " | 4 | Charles Collins | Gr. & Gardener | White Meadows St. Vincent |
| 1294 | " | " | Samuel Harford | Labourer | Heytesbury |
| 1295 | " | " | Mary de la Roche (widow) | Domestic | Wilbeck Street |

Emigrant Register left hand Side

[See Regulations for the selection of Emigrant Labourers.]

| Married or Single | Man's Age | Woman's Age | CHILDREN | | | | * Charge for the Passage of the Children, by whom defrayed | REMARKS | Approved by the Commissioners | Embarkation No. |
|-------------------|-----------|-------------|----------|------------|-------|---------|--|---------|-------------------------------|-----------------|
| | | | Boys | | Girls | | | | | |
| | | | No. | Ages | No. | Ages | | | | |
| ✓ | 27 | - | - | - | - | - | | | | |
| - | 19 | - | - | - | - | - | | | | |
| M | 32 | 50 | 3 | 55.5 years | " | " | to Navarino | app. | 675 | |
| " | 28 | 24 | 1 | 7 years | 1 | 3 years | to Navarino | app. | 676 | |
| ✓ | | 29 | " | - | 1 | 9 years | Do | " | 677 | |
| M | 29 | 24 | " | " | " | " | (Cont) to Lady Emma | app. | 680 | |

Emigrant Register Right Hand Side