

RESEARCH NOTES – MARY ELIZABETH BREWER

25 AUG 1995 ADAMS/BREWER FAMILY

Source: Alan Moore (family member) 25 August 1995

“Henry Adams and Mary Elizabeth Brewer came from the parish of Fivehead in Somerset, about seven miles east of Taunton, UK.

Mary Elizabeth (often known as Elizabeth) was born in Fivehead, probably in 1835. Her father, William Brewer, was a labourer. Her mother Jane was born around 1807 in the parish of Puckington about three miles southeast of Fivehead. Both Elizabeth and her mother were glovers. Family legend has it that William went to America with the intention of sending for his wife and daughter once he was established there, but they never heard from him again. In the 1851 census Elizabeth was living with her mother in "Halls House" in the village of Fivehead. Jane is listed as married, but there is no sign of the elusive William, so perhaps the story was true. In 1861 Jane is listed as a widow, boarding with an Elizabeth Westlake.

Henry was born in Fivehead in 1832. His father was George Adams and his mother Hannah Tolman. George and Henry were both agricultural labourers. Hannah was a glover, so would have been acquainted with the Brewers. Henry appears to have been literate although both his parents were illiterate, as was his wife-to-be. An older brother and older sister both died in infancy but he had at least four younger brothers and a younger sister and they could have survived to adulthood. Nevertheless in 1851 only Henry and his brothers George and Frank were living with their parents in the village of Fivehead. Hannah's father, George Tolman, then aged 81, was also living with them. He had been an agricultural labourer and was listed as the parish clerk and sexton. A niece, Sarah Salway, aged 14, and also a glover, was visiting them. In 1861 Frank was still living with his parents. George was married, his wife Elizabeth coming from "Lower South-hollow". Their daughter Sarah was born in 1861.

Henry and Mary Elizabeth were married in the parish church on 27 January 1855 by the vicar, R. William Lambert, "according to the rites and ceremonies of the established church ... after banns". Henry's parents witnessed the marriage, which was registered at Langport, a town about five miles further east. Two daughters were born to them in England: Hannah Miriam (named after her grandmother and two aunts) born in 1856, and Mary Jane born in 1857.

Mary Elizabeth had "weak lungs" and this is supposedly why they decided to migrate to Australia. They travelled on the "Utopia", which departed from Liverpool 28 March 1858 and arrived in Adelaide 9 July, a journey of 103 days. We do not know where they joined the ship.

On 29 June 1858, just a couple of weeks before their arrival, Mary Jane died of measles and was buried at sea - a sad introduction to their new homeland. Henry brought with him in the false bottom of a trunk which was then filled with clothes and other chattels. This box, with "ADELY" or something similar printed on the front, eventually came into the possession of their granddaughter Lillian O'Brien.

Five more children were born after their arrival in South Australia: Bertha (born 1861?), Louisa (Lucy) 1862), Elizabeth (1864), Louise (Lou) (1867), and George Henry (named after his grandfather and father) (1868). Mary Elizabeth died in the mid-1870's and Henry remarried in 1879. He married Mrs Emily Whelan, a widow who had been married twice before and was older than he was ... In Boothby' almanac Henry Adams was listed as a farmer in the Kondoparinga/Meadows area for the 40 years prior to his death in 1903, for 1865-71 specifically in Green Hills where Lucy was born.

We don't know anything about Hannah's life in Australia. Bertha went to Adelaide. She is believed to have died quite young, after marrying (Surgery?) and having a son known as Harry Blue or Adams.

In any event, by the time Henry Adams made his will on 4 August 1902 it appears that all three elder daughters had died. Mentioned in his will as beneficiaries were his second wife, Emily Ellen Adams, and four children: George Henry Adams, Lucy Moore, Elizabeth Stanger, and Louisa Pound. He died the following year in Meadows, on 30 January 1903.

George Henry went prospecting in Western Australia, but when this proved unsuccessful he returned to farming in that state. He died in his 30's between 1902 and 1906. On his way home one night he apparently fell off his horse and broke his neck. His body was found the next day by neighbours from an adjoining farm. We believe he died in Yalgoo. He was not married and his three surviving sisters each received a third of the proceeds from the farm.

Louisa, always known as Lucy, married William Moore in Meadows on 6 May 1886. The ceremony was performed by the Rev. Arthur J. Burt in the residence of the bridegroom's father. Elizabeth married William (Will) Stanger in June 1886. He came from northern Scotland and had been a ship's cook. He followed this profession in Adelaide also and when they moved to Western Australia he ran his own very successful restaurant. They had two daughters, Elsie (married, name Wheeler) and Florence (married name Hummerston) who married twice. When Elizabeth and Will went to Scotland to visit his family, Flo stayed at "Highland Valley" with her Aunt Lucy and Elsie stayed in Swan Hill with her Aunt Lou. Will Stanger died in 1939 in Wellington (Mills), Western Australia. Lou (there is confusion about her and her sister's names) married Peter Pound who ran a jeweller's shop in Wentworth, New South Wales. They had no children. She died in 1945, her death being registered in Swan Hill, Victoria."

27 JAN 1855 MARRIAGE

Source Info: Ancestry.com England, Select Marriages, 1538-1973(database online) (Wendy Baker SAGHS 2014-03-04)

Name: Henry ADAMS

Gender: Male

Marriage Date: 27 Jan 1855

Marriage place: Fivehead, Somerset, England

Father: George Adams

Spouse: Mary Elizabeth Brewer

FHL Film Number: 1526169

Reference ID: 30

27 JAN 1855 MARRIAGE

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23 JAN 1856 BIRTH OF DAUGHTER

Hannah Miriam Adams (born Fivehead, Somerset, England)

18 AUG 1857 BIRTH OF DAUGHTER

Mary Jane Adams (born Fivehead, Somerset, England)

1858 ARRIVAL IN SOUTH AUSTRALIA

Mary Elizabeth Adams (nee Brewer) arrived in South Australia on board the *Utopia* with her husband Henry Adams and their daughter Hannah aged one year. Their infant daughter Mary Jane died from measles and was buried at sea on 29 June 1858. She was one of three infants on board to succumb to measles within four days. The family resided in Langport before their departure and her husband's occupation was given as "farm labourer".

Link to: www.theshipslist.com/ships/australia/utopia1858.shtml for more details of the voyage.

10 JUL 1858 UTOPIA

The South Australian Register, Saturday July 10th 1858

<http://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/49781521>

This article notes not only the names of the passengers but also the cargo ... among many items were 67,000 slates, 200 boxes of tobacco pipes, 15 tons of pig-iron and 100 half hogs-heads of vinegar.

Link to: http://www.lrfoundation.org.uk/public_education/reference-library/register-of-ships-online/ to search for construction and ownership details of *Utopia*.

23 JUL 1858 LETTER TO EDITOR

The South Australian Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1858 - 1889), Friday 23 July 1858, page 3

National Library of Australia <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article781480>

"MEASLES-SHIP UTOPIA.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE ADVERTISER

Sir-A rumour is afloat throughout Adelaide and the Port that the last emigrant ship, the *Utopia*, had, during her voyage from the mother-country, several cases of measles on board, and that one case transpired three days prior to her anchoring in the port of Adelaide. If this be true, the earlier an investigation takes place by the Government into such irregularities the better. It is a well known fact that to allow any vessel to enter into a thickly-populated district with contagion on board would be only through the greatest neglect on the part of the Health Officer ... hope that such is not the case, and that this letter may either be contradicted, or if affirmed by some person thoroughly acquainted with the facts, that the Government authorities may make a searching enquiry.

Yours etc. -Junctus Medicus"

23 AUG 1858 UTOPIA

Link: <http://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/49783079>

“Utopia, ship 949 tons, Keen Master, from Liverpool. Elder, Stirling & Co. Agents. Prince’s Wharf.”

1861 BIRTH OF DAUGHTER

Bertha Adams (Born in South Australia)

17 JUN 1862 BIRTH OF DAUGHTER

Louisa (Lucy) Beatrice Adams (Born at Greenhills, South Australia)

19 NOV 1864 BIRTH OF DAUGHTER

Elizabeth Adams (Born in South Australia)

25 DEC 1867 BIRTH OF DAUGHTER

Louise Paulina Bertha (Born in South Australia)

5 OCT 1868 BIRTH OF SON

George Henry Adams (Born in South Australia)

9 APR 1878 DEATH

Source info: Ancestry.com Australia Death Index, 1787-1985 (database online)

Original data: compiled from publicly available sources

Wendy Baker, Goolwa Library 2014-03-13

Name: Mary Elizabeth Adams

Death Date: 9 Apr 1878

Death Place: Meadows

Age: 41

Residence place: Meadows

Registration Place: Strathalbyn, South Australia

Page no: 485

Volume number: 86

Est. birth year: abt 1837
