

EBENEZER HASTWELL

LIFE LIVED TO THE FULL

(25th May 1845 – 9th October 1932)

SECOND SON OF JAMES & MARY ANNE HASTWELL

By Wendy Baker 2023©



*John, James, Ebenezer (aged 20) (centre back) and William (the author's great-grandfather) with parents Mary Anne and James Hastwell
Believed to be photographed on the day of the whole family's baptism as "adult receivers"
into the Lords New Church, Carrington St, Adelaide, on 17 September 1865*

Showing EBENEZER HASTWELL's immediate ancestors and descendants

James Hastwell
11 Mar 1818 - London, England
2 Apr 1886 - Hoyleton, SA

Marriage: 28 Feb 1843

Spouse
Mary Ann Adshead
28 Mar 1814 - England
20 Jun 1891 - Yorketown, SA

Parents
James Hastwell
26 Sep 1796 - England
Dec 1878 -
Elizabeth Aitken
Abt 1795 -
13 Feb 1846 - 69 Broadwall

Children	Born	Parent Link
1 James Hastwell	17 Dec 1843	
2 Ebenezer Hastwell	25 May 1845	
3 John Hastwell	4 Apr 1847	
4 Edward Hastwell	25 May 1850	
5 Mary Ann HASTWELL	23 Mar 1852	
6 Mary Ann Hastwell	21 Jan 1854	
7 William Henry Hastwell	29 Jan 1855	

Above: James and Mary Ann Hastwell (nee Adshead) emigrated from UK on the *Cotfield* in 1853

Ebenezer Hastwell
25 May 1845 - Hatfield St Blackfriars Rd London
9 Oct 1932 - 23 Swaine Ave Rose Park SA

Marriage: 9 Apr 1871

Spouse
Eliza Brooke
10 Dec 1849 - Tynte St North Adelaide SA
20 Feb 1930 - Trevelyan St Wayville SA

Parents
James Hastwell
11 Mar 1818 - London, England
2 Apr 1886 - Hoyleton, SA
Mary Ann Adshead
28 Mar 1814 - England
20 Jun 1891 - Yorketown, SA

Children	Born	Parent Link
1 Hubert Henry Hastwell	15 Dec 1871	
2 James Stanley Hastwell	4 Jul 1873	
3 Winifred Hastwell	26 Jan 1875	
4 Arthur Hastwell	8 Nov 1876	
5 Walter Hastwell	31 Mar 1878	
6 Frederick Hastwell	1879	
7 Robert Charles Hastwell	29 Apr 1881	

Above: Second son of James & Mary Ann – Ebenezer b. 1845 (born UK) & children

EBENEZER HASTWELL - LIFE LIVED TO THE FULL

(25 May 1845 – 9 October 1932)

Ebenezer Hastwell, one of my many great-grand uncles, was a late springtime baby who was born on 25th May 1845 to James and Mary Anne Hastwell (nee Adshead) at their home in Blackfriars Road, London.

CERTIFIED COPY OF AN ENTRY OF BIRTH
The fee for this certificate is 3s. 6d. (46s.).
 When application is made by post a handling fee is payable in addition.

GIVEN AT THE GENERAL REGISTER OFFICE,
 SOMERSET HOUSE, LONDON
 Application Number **5848**

REGISTRATION DISTRICT **St Saviour, Surrey**
BIRTH in the Sub-district of **Christ Church** in the County of **Surrey**

Column:—	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10*
No.	When and where born	Name, if any	Sex	Name and surname of father	Name, surname and maiden surname of mother	Occupation of father	Signature, description and residence of informant	When registered	Signature of registrar	Name entered after registration
25th May 1845	Blackfriars Road	Ebenezer	M	James Hastwell	Mary Anne Adshead	Glazier	John Hastwell, 54 Blackfriars Road, 1845	26th May 1845	John Hastwell	

CERTIFIED to be a true copy of an entry in the certified copy of a Register of Births in the District above mentioned.
 Given at the GENERAL REGISTER OFFICE, SOMERSET HOUSE, LONDON, under the Seal of the said Office, the **26** day of **June** 19**72**

BX 778489

This certificate is issued in pursuance of the Births and Deaths Registration Act 1953. Section 34 provides that any certified copy of an entry purporting to be sealed or stamped with the seal of the General Register Office shall be received as evidence of the birth or death to which it relates without any further or other proof of the entry, and no certified copy purporting to have been given in the said Office shall be of any force or effect unless it is sealed or stamped as aforesaid.

CAUTION!—Any person who (1) falsifies any of the particulars on this certificate, or (2) uses a falsified certificate as true, knowing it to be false, is liable to prosecution.

Form A202M (8.32.1324) D4, 730291 100,000 10/70 H.S.—R2—20

Copy of Ebenezer Hastwell's birth certificate (Crown Copyright)

He was the second of James and Mary Anne's children, the first being James the younger, born 17 months before Ebenezer. Then came John on 4th April 1847, and almost three years later Edward, on 25th May 1850. Baby Mary Anne arrived on the 21st January, 1854.

The children's father was the last of several generations of glasscutters at 69 Broadwall, Christchurch, Surrey. It seems that business had become less prosperous, for the London Gazette of 1st January 1848 published on Page 14:-

"Notice is hereby given, that the Partnership heretofore subsisting between us the undersigned, James Hastwell the elder and James Hastwell the younger, as Cut Glass Manufacturers, and carried on by us at No.69, Broadwall, Christchurch, in the county of Surrey, has been this day dissolved by mutual consent; and that all debts due to and from the said partnership will be received and paid by the said James Hastwell the younger. Dated this 1st day of January 1848. : Signed James Hastwell, senr, James Hastwell, junr".

(There were three consecutive generations of James Hastwells – the "senr" above, born 1796 and the "junr" born 1818, father of Ebenezer's brother James).

Another notice appeared:- *"1 FEB 1850 GAZETTED NOTICE RE DISSOLUTION OF CO-PARTNERSHIP – London Gazette Issue 21064 published on the 1 February 1850.*

293

NOTICE is hereby given, that the Copartnership of the undersigned, as Cut Glass Manufacturers and Dealers in Druggists' Sundries, under the firm of Messrs. Hastwell and Company, was, on the 18th day of October 1849, dissolved by mutual consent; and that all debts are to be paid to the undersigned Robert Adolph Farmer.—
Dated this 18th day of October 1849.

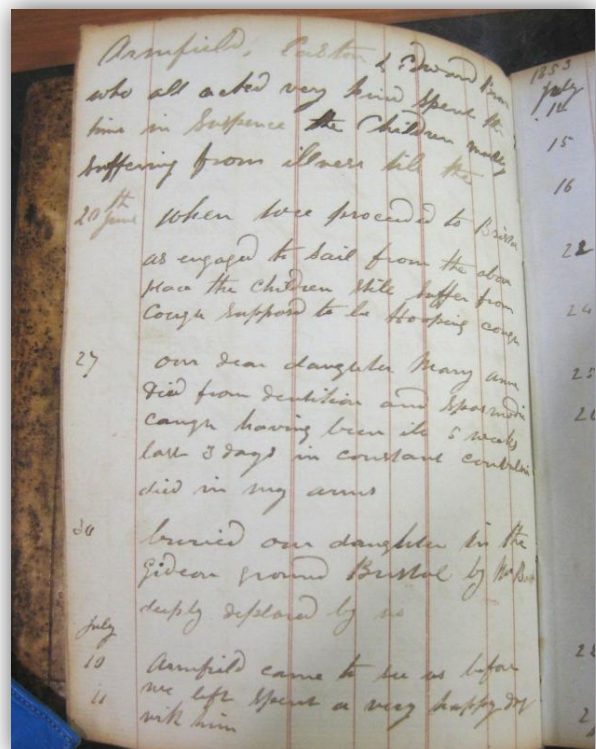
J. Hastwell, junr.
R. A. Farmer.

By the 1851 Census, the family was living at 85 Vauxhall St, Lambeth, Surrey. James was absent on the night of the census but his occupation was commercial traveller. At some point James and Mary Anne decided to emigrate with the children.

All had not been “smooth sailing” for the family before their journey began.

All five children contracted whooping cough, but while the boys managed to recover; little Mary Anne, only fourteen months old, had not the strength to survive. Did eight year old Ebenezer understand the death from “*dentition and spontaneous cough*” of his baby sister Mary Ann, and the grief of his parents? The 14 months old’s death, was, his father wrote, “*deeply deplored by us*”.

Instead of being able to bring their youngest child to a new life in a new country, they had to leave her, buried in Bristol’s “*Gideon’s ground*”, only a few weeks before they sailed. “*Dentition*” was a common name for pain from teething and in those days was often treated variously with laudanum, mercury, alcohol or other opiates - all highly toxic so-called “cures”.



I have been unable to find the location of this cemetery in spite of exhaustive enquiries; it may have been absorbed into other cemeteries or has simply disappeared under the growth of the city.

A barque, possibly similar to Cotfield



Finally time, tide and winds were right and Ebenezer, with his oldest brother James, 10, and his two younger brothers John, 6 and Edward 3, and their parents boarded the sailing ship *Cotfield*. The ship departed Bristol on 1st August 1853 bound for South Australia.

That we know any of these things is due only to Ebenezer's father James having kept a journal that detailed in careful handwriting everything he saw of importance to his social mores and his family that happened before,

during and for a little while after the momentous journey. This invaluable heirloom is now in the care of the State Library of South Australia. A full transcription of it was made by Peter K. Hastwell.

I can see Ebenezer's father, undoubtedly in cramped quarters aboard, perhaps lit by a lantern swinging as the little three-masted 604 ton barque at times groaned, pitched and rolled through heavy seas. James agonised over the apparently inadequate provisions supplied; with almost a month left of the voyage it is easy to see its importance in his terse entry "*Nov 8 – Harry the steward boy fell overboard and last meat gone.*" Ever economical, James was to use the spare pages in the journal as a ledger in the general stores he would later acquire.

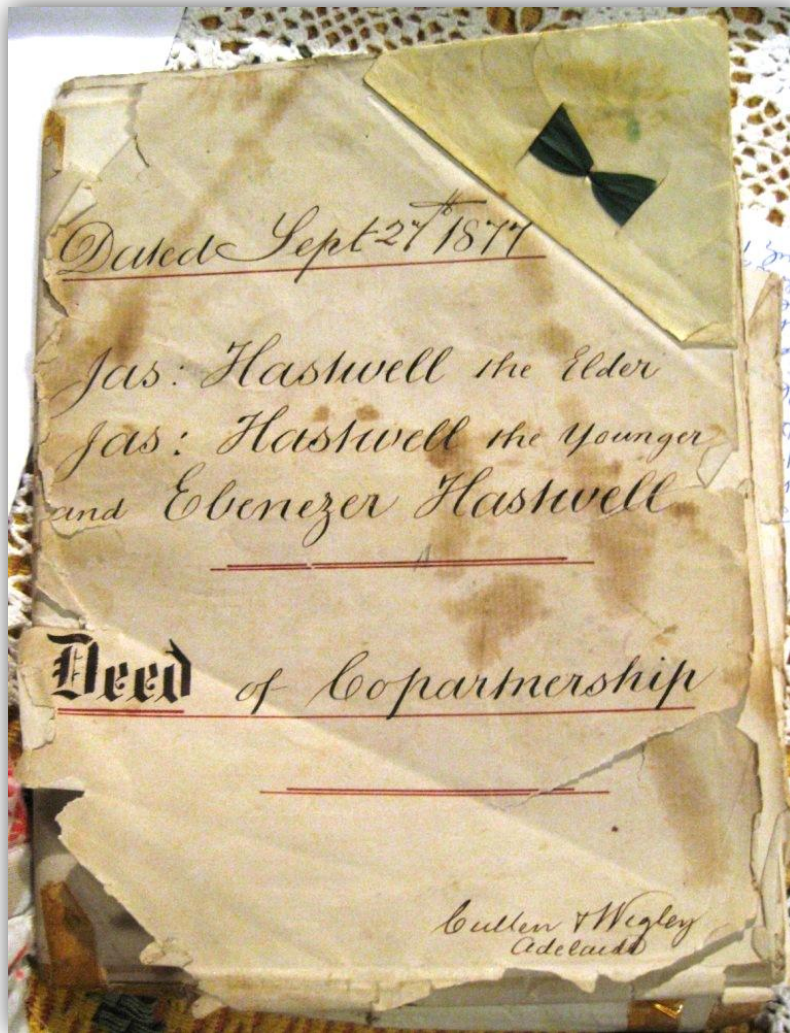
The children's bachelor uncle, James' 23 year old brother Edward John Hastwell, also came with the family. Perhaps it was as well they escaped England, for a cholera epidemic took the lives of over ten thousand Londoners that year.

Within a couple of months of arrival in the new homeland Ebenezer would once more have been aware of his mother's sorrow when his new-born sister - again named Mary Ann – survived only one day, and was buried in the North Road Cemetery. What had it been like aboard the *Cotfield* for James' wife? She had had to look after four boisterous boys aged from three to ten, while suffering pregnancy with a lack of adequate nutrition, on the hazardous four month voyage.

Four years later, just two days before Christmas in 1857, Ebenezer lost the youngest of his brothers born in England. Seven year old Edward was laid to rest in the Kensington Pioneer Cemetery, now a park. Again, we do not know the cause of the young boy's death, whether it was from accident or illness. But statements in the link to a South Australian study by Emily Bower in 2008 could give us a clue - "*Access to fresh, clean water became a major issue for health in the 1850s (Smith 1973), as did hygiene, with the lack of deep drainage for sewage and waste, only recognised in the 1890s. Until then ... backyard cesspits and creek dumping of waste products were common and contributed to the problem of toxic soil saturation (Blackburn 1970:76)*"

Whatever the cause of young Edward's death on the 23rd December, Christmas Day 1857 must have been anything but happy for the family.

However the other Hastwell boys and their father, and many of their descendants thrived. They were destined to become merchants and storekeepers, teachers, postmasters, bakers, business entrepreneurs, artists and agents. It seems a far cry from generations of Hastwell glass-cutters in London, but some of those beautiful pieces of glass work were handed down from James as family heirlooms.



The deed of co-partnership relating to the general stores at Two Wells, Mallala & Penfield operated by James and his two sons James the Younger and Ebenezer Hastwell

This fragile document was at one stage in the hands of Irvin Hastwell, who allowed it to be photographed. Since Irvin's death in 2022, its whereabouts are unknown, but the author Wendy Baker has been assured it is safe.



Hastwell-cut glass heirlooms include condiment cruets and butter and jam dishes.

One beautiful salad set of bowl and servers was an heirloom wedding gift to Ebenezer Hastwell when he married Eliza Brooke on 9th April 1871 at her parents' home in South Terrace Adelaide. Eliza was the second daughter of John Brooke and Harriet (nee Sewell).

Ebenezer and Eliza's first child was **Hubert Henry Hastwell**, born in **1871** and educated at Pulteney Grammar School, first established less than 25 years before his birth. Ebenezer was, like many of the Hastwells, very community minded. When Hubert was two years old the Mallala Church of Christ first met, with Two Wells members, on the 24th March 1872, and

the charter members were Brethren E. Hastwell, J. Marshman, J. W. Wood, H. Lawrence, and a few ladies.

In 1901 Hubert was called as a witness in an inquest. The Advertiser (Adelaide, SA: 1889-131), Friday 18 October 1901, reported on page 7 under a rather melodramatic heading:

"The City Coroner (Dr. W. Ramsay Smith) held an inquest on Thursday afternoon on the body of Miss Canny, who was drowned in a well at the Burnside Hotel.

Mary Canny said deceased was her sister. She slept with witness on Wednesday night.

Witness retired about 11 o'clock, and her sister was restless during the night. When she woke about 5 o'clock in the morning, she found that her sister was missing. Witness searched in the house, but was unable to find her. She noticed that the back door had been opened and on passing into the yard her attention was attracted to the well because the lid was not on it. She looked down the well, and saw her sister in the water. She ran inside the hotel and told her other sister, and afterwards proceeded to the store opposite. A young man a baker, came to the door, and she asked him if he would telephone the police to come immediately. She understood a telephone message was sent by him to the police. About an hour elapsed from the time she had heard her sister moving until she woke. Her sister enjoyed good health, but had been in the habit of walking in her sleep since she was a child. On one occasion deceased had unlocked two doors, and walked into the kitchen without knowing that she had done so. Believed that the lid was not on the well on Wednesday night, although as a rule care was taken to see that it was kept in proper place.

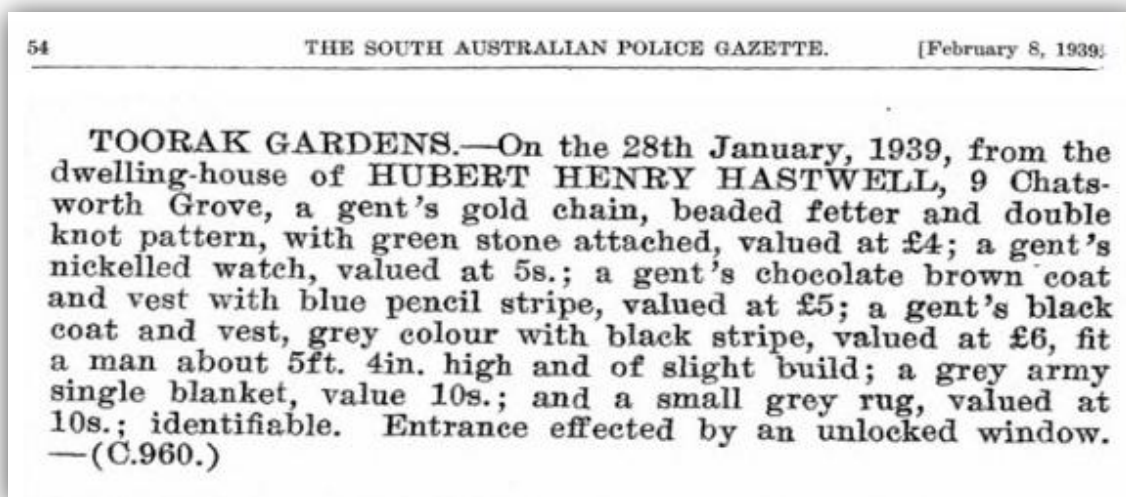
Hubert Hastwell, baker, deposed to having got his brother, at the request of the previous witness, to telephone for the police. Police-Constable Carroll deposed that he took the body from the well.

The jury returned a verdict that the deceased came to her death by accidental drowning."

What a sad case!

Two years later Hubert married Myriah Ada Clisby in 1903. In 1913 Hubert, by then a baker and grocer, had a shop and dwelling constructed in Monreith, South Australia. (City of Burnside area).

Hubert and Myriah later moved to Toorak Gardens where, during one memorable night in early 1939 their home was burgled! The S.A. Police Gazette published on 8th February 1939 (Page 54) the following report of the theft:



Hubert was obviously a dapper dresser and like many of the Hastwell men, slightly built and not very tall. I wonder if he kept his windows locked after such an affront – and were his goods ever found and returned to him?



Hubert's son, Donald Brooke and two daughters, Myriah Gwendoline and Edna Amelia, were Ebenezer's first grandchildren.

Myriah died in 1938, but Hubert Henry, retired baker, lived until the age of 86, when he passed away on the 19th May, 1958. His and Myriah's gravesite in West Tce Cemetery is EYS, 3S E,A.

James Stanley Hastwell was the second of Ebenezer and Eliza's seven children, and the one about whom we have the most information owing to the diligence of his daughter Claire and personal memories of her parents and grandparents. He was born at Mallala, north of Adelaide on **4th July 1873** and like Hubert he too attended Pulteney Grammar School.

At the comparatively late age of 41 James Stanley married Metta Amanda Ivy Miller, of Danish descent. She was always known as Ivy. They were wed in the Holder Memorial Methodist Church, Mile End South Australia on 1st July 1914 on the brink of the outbreak of WW1. The couple were to be blessed with three children.

The first-born, Ivy Nell (known as Nell) Hastwell was born 30th April 1915. Her sister Nita Claire (known as Claire) Hastwell was born on 28th June 1918 in Woodville, South Australia, as the protracted WW1 was drawing to its close. Five years after Claire was born her baby brother Harry Frith Hastwell arrived on New Year's Day 1923.

Claire tells in her memoirs how her Grandpa was a little under 5 feet in height –only about 150cm tall. Ebenezer was a baker (among other occupations) but Claire wrote in her recollections:

"I doubt if Grandpa was ever a baker himself as I doubt if he would have been tall enough to mix the dough in the deep trough. He probably employed a baker, but he saw that his boys learnt the trade."

"I remember my Hastwell grandparents well, although they were old when I was born. He was 73 and she was 69. Their children called them Mater and Pater."

Ebenezer's sons, in order, were Hubert Henry, James Stanley, Arthur, Walter, Frederick and Robert Charles. The only girl was Winifred; with six sons, perhaps Eliza was glad of a daughter's arrival in her male-dominated world! Sadly, Winifred died from tuberculosis of the hip in her early twenties.

When Claire knew her grandfather Ebenezer *“he was bald with white hair over his ears and back of his head. Always well groomed and dressed in a style long past. He wore a bowler hat, and had stiff fronted shirt and collar and small bow tie. In summer he wore a pith helmet.”*

“Can’t remember Grandma in anything but black. She wore a lace blouse – always white and a high necked boned “collar” to her chin. Her skirts were long, reaching her shoes which were buttoned over her ankles something like boots. I don’t know where they could have bought these clothes, as no one else wore them. Grandma had “spectacles” – nothing as common as glasses – for reading. These she kept in a “spectacle” case which she opened at the top and which she attached to her belt by a medallion clip and two little chains.

“Neither Grandma nor Grandpa had much warmth – she was very severe and ramrod straight and dominated her family – especially Ebby. She, of course, never called him this – I can’t remember her addressing him by name at all.

“They placed great store on good manners and we were always on our very best behaviour when Grandma and Grandpa Hastwell came to visit us. They did the rounds of their sons – and once a month they came to “tea” with us at Statenborough Street, which was a time of tension and pleasure for me. Tension because I feared that I would be the one asked to say ‘Grace’, or that I might spill something or do something to disgrace the family. The pleasure was the story that followed tea ...she would sit on a cane chair on the right of the fireplace with its wood fire burning while I sat in my little cane chair by her side. The story was a continuous saga from the Billabong series by Mary Grant Bruce. I knew exactly where Grandma had stopped in the story and would give a resume of the previous month’s episode, for her to pick up from where she had stopped.

“Grandma was a recognised authority on Homeopathic medicines and in her younger days people in her area sought her advice. She passed her knowledge onto her sons.”



Eliza died at their home at 26 Trevelyan St Wayville. (Photo – Courtesy Robyn Upton)

Ebenezer lost his wife Eliza (Claire Hastwell’s grandmother) on the 5th March, 1930, at their home at 26 Trevelyan Street, Wayville. She lived to a good age – 81 years – for the times.

The Chronicle (Adelaide, SA:1895-1954) recorded her death and gave a brief summary of her life: *“After her marriage to Mr. Ebenezer Hastwell she went to live at Mallala, where her*

husband owned a large store, with branches at Two Wells, Lower Light, and Virginia. Later they went to Nairne, and for the past 20 years had resided in various suburbs. There are five

sons- Messrs. R. C. Hastwell, of Myrtle Bank; H. H. Hastwell, of Toorak Gardens; J. S. Hastwell, of Tantanoola; F. Hastwell, of Narracoorte and W. Hastwell, of Western Australia."

After his wife's death Ebenezer went to live with his son James Stanley's family at Tantanoola in the South East of South Australia for three or four months. Claire recalled *"This was a trying time for us as we were crowded in a 4 roomed house and he was so irritating I expect he was just trying to be friendly, but didn't know how to treat and talk to children. He used to pat Harry, aged 7 on the head and pull my plaits. And we had to smile and not get cross ... I have a mental picture of him in his Victorian clothes, with a book under his arm and a cushion walking to the Tantanoola Oval where he would sit under the pines and read."*

James Stanley's only son, young Harry, grew up and married Jean Rosetta Lewis on 4 March 1944. They had two sons Peter and Mark, and a daughter Robyn, Claire Hastwell's niece. In 2016 Robyn said "Dad (Harry Frith Hastwell) wrote in his "Reflections" that James and Ivy and the children moved to Tantanoola when Harry was six years old, so that would be in 1929/30 when the Great Depression was near its worst.

Harry wrote: *"James Stanley Hastwell had been employed by the State Government Public Stores Department (State Supply) as a storeman or clerk. The State Government of the day was flat broke and declared a 10% salary cut for all government employees. With a wife and three children to support, he thought it was better to resign and return to the old family trade of baker. Hence the move to Tantanoola where a business was available. The family was at Tantanoola at the time of the discovery of the caves and the Tantanoola Tiger. Ivy had lived at "Tanta" as a child as her father had been the schoolmaster."*

Robyn wrote *"[They] only lived there for 3 years but they were formative years in Dad's life. They then moved to Murray Bridge for 18 months. [They] returned to [their] city home at 12 Statenborough St Knightsbridge (Leabrook). James Stanley Hastwell could not get permanent work but took anything that came along – Gepps Cross Abattoirs, gardening, camp cook at shearing time on sheep stations up north and the family would not see him for months at a time.*

"When no work [was] to be had, the family had to accept 'public relief' and receive rations. In Dad's writings, James Stanley comes across as a loving father who was extremely hard working and well respected. Much attention was paid to table manners. He always seemed an elderly man to my father, as he (James) was 50 when Dad (Harry) was born. He died when Dad was 18. He was much loved by the children who had a happy childhood. He was always called Father."

On 23rd December 1930 it was reported in the South Eastern Times (Millicent) (<http://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/201003921>) that Nell Hastwell had come third in the second term of her Intermediate year at Millicent High School, evidently no mean feat given the financial difficulties of the Depression which, according to the article, had checked the development of the school.

Nell's academic skills had her well on her path to becoming a nursing sister.

Meanwhile, the *Border Watch* of Christmas Eve 1931 reported in some detail on page 3 "a nasty accident" under the headline "Car Overturns – Tantanoola Resident and Children Injured". The report stated:

“When returning from Glencoe about midday on Wednesday Mr James Hastwell baker and storekeeper of Tantanoola, who was accompanied by his son and daughter Harry and Claire, met with a nasty accident, which might have had more serious consequences. The car was descending the Glencoe hill on the Tantanoola side when a back tyre blew out, throwing the vehicle on its side and precipitating the occupants on to the roadway.

“A passing tourist car was immediately on the scene, and the occupants of the overturned car were taken to Tantanoola. Dr Salts was called from Millicent, and an examination showed that the girl’s arm was fractured near the elbow. She also received nasty cuts and abrasions about the head and face. The little boy, Harry, also sustained cuts about the face and head, while Mr Hastwell escaped with minor abrasions and shock. Mr. A. McAdam, the postmaster at Tantanoola and a party of local men went to the scene of the accident, and after making adjustments were able to drive the damaged car into Tantanoola under its own power, a broken windscreen and hood being the chief damage. The patients are progressing as well as can be expected at their home, but it is understood that Claire will be taken to the Millicent Hospital.”

Robyn wrote: *“The article about the car accident refers to the time when they went to Glencoe to look for mistletoe on Christmas Eve and were going quite slowly. Dad noted in his writings that Father (James Stanley) suffered a crushed chest. Claire was 13 and Harry 8 at the time. Cuts and abrasions were from the broken windscreen.”*

Christmas 1931 would have been one long-remembered by the family.

The *South Eastern Times* of 5th January the following year gave the results of the Qualifying Certificate exams at Tantanoola School. The head teacher, Mr C. C. Harrison, had seven students presented and passed. Five of those were awarded Government Exhibitions. Young Claire Hastwell’s name topped the list of five with 662 marks.

Claire would later become a teacher, following something of a family tradition - her mother Metta Amanda Ivy Hastwell (nee Miller) (always known as Ivy) was a teacher, and also her niece Robyn. Claire carried the distinction of becoming the first female school principal in South Australia.



Claire Hastwell, former teacher at Gilles St Primary school, with photos of first (1949) & last (1961) classes.

Nell Hastwell who in 1936 was working and training at the Mt Gambier Hospital, passed third in order of merit in the October final nursing examination.

(<https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/132033718>). She enjoyed a break at the end of the year, spending the last week of her three weeks’ holidays at her friend and fellow trainee’s parents’ home at “Sunnydale” in Strathalbyn. Her friend Anne returned then to Mount Gambier Hospital to continue her training, while newly-qualified “Sister Hastwell” left Strathalbyn in January 1937 to return to her home at Knightsbridge.

Sister Nell Hastwell enjoyed another brief holiday in Mount Gambier as the guest of Dr and Mrs J.R.L. Willis, according to the *Border Watch* in July 1940. Nell had accepted a nursing appointment at St Neot’s Hospital in that town.

In 1944 the *Border Watch* (<http://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/78159558>)

mentioned in their Social Notes that *“Sister Hastwell, of Adelaide, and Miss Claire Hastwell, school teacher Tanunda, after spending a few days at Tantanoola, left on Monday for Mount Gambier, where they intend to spend a few days sightseeing before returning to their duties.”*

Neither Nell nor Claire ever married, but both ladies pursued long and successful careers in nursing and teaching. They are remembered with great fondness by their niece Robyn Upton, formerly Trapp (nee Hastwell) who sent much of the above material to me.

In a terrible tragedy – I was with my late mother Pearl Clark (nee Hastwell) when she received the phone call about it from another family member – these good ladies’ lives were cut short on 3rd August 1996. Both Nell and Claire were killed when a semi-trailer ploughed into the Toyota sedan Claire was driving on the Sturt Highway near Blanchetown. Claire was driving; she was killed instantly. Nell died from her injuries three days later in the Royal Adelaide Hospital. Nell was 81 years old, Claire 78. Another unrelated family were also victims of this crash.

Ebenezer’s third child – and only daughter – was **Winifred Hastwell**, who arrived on **26th January 1875**. How sad then for Ebenezer and Eliza to bear the loss of their daughter from tuberculosis of the hip at only 32 years old, on 29th September 1907. She died at her father’s home in Burnside, and was interred the next day in West Tce. Cemetery, Adelaide (burial plot Road 3).

Arthur Hastwell was the fourth of Ebenezer and Eliza’s children, also born at Mallala, on **8th November 1876**.

When Arthur was a mere toddler, the business partnership comprising his father Ebenezer and his uncles James and John, together with their father James (Senior), was dissolved by mutual consent in April 1877. The business, general stores at Two Wells and Mallala, was to be carried on by Ebenezer, his brother James and their father James.

As a young man Arthur moved to Western Australia, evidently about the turn of the century, and married. I have researched and found records of one son, Arthur George Hastwell, and Arthur (snr) also had a boy Wilfred Leslie Hastwell who later married Flora May McAlpine Gordon. There is a record of Arthur marrying, in 1905, a woman (nee Sampey), but parts of his life seem to have been lost in the mists of time. I did hear that when his first wife died he was married again – to her sister, but have been unable to verify these stories.

During WW1 Arthur tried twice to enlist, and was rejected on medical grounds, but on his third try he was accepted and enlisted on the 24th January 1916. By this time he was 39 years old, and his occupation as given on his Attestation Certificate was “Surveyor’s Assistant”. He was slightly built and short – only 5 ft 2 in. (just over 157cm) in height, with dark eyes and dark hair. A Private, he served most of his military life overseas, but was invalided out just two days short of two years’ service, suffering anaemia and a dilated heart.

Arthur received a pension of fifteen shillings per fortnight from early 1918. At some point he must have returned to South Australia, for his name is on the Yorketown Town and District Honour Board (WW1).

Arthur Hastwell died on the 21st January 1920, en route from Adelaide Railway Station to the Adelaide Hospital, after taking suddenly and seriously ill in the Parcels Office at the station – quite possibly from a damaged heart.

Ebenezer and Eliza's next son, **Walter Hastwell** was born **31st March 1878** at Mallala. Like Arthur, Walter too went to Western Australia, around the turn of the century. On the 3rd October 1906 he married Esther Mann and their three children were Arthur George (1907), William Howard (1908) and Lorna Mary (1916). It was noted in the press in 1928 that Walter was Secretary of the Great Southern Co-operative Stores Society Ltd. at Narrogin.

Walter died at Mt Lawley on 20th September 1955, and after cremation his ashes were dispersed at the Karrakatta Cemetery. At the time of his death he was a retired railway officer for the Western Australian Railways, and lived at 53 Walcott St, Mt Lawley.

Meanwhile, Ebenezer's life was moving on. The SA Advertiser of 4th November 1879 reported that "*Mr E. Hastwell was foreman of the Jury at the inquest into a fire at the house of Mr George Collings at Mallala, the inquest being held on Tuesday October 28, 1879.*" Ebenezer was not the only Hastwell to serve on a jury.

Ebenezer and Eliza were still living at Mallala when **Frederick Hastwell** was born there in **1879**. Frederick married Ethel May Keays on the 29th June, 1912, and they also had three children – Winifred Brooke (1913), Kathleen Ruth (1915) and Douglas Edward (1917). Douglas was a WWII returned serviceman who passed away aged only 30 years, in 1947.

Frederick died on the 24th September 1968 at the good age of 89 years, at his Northfield residence, and was buried on the 26th in Magill Cemetery (Sect. A, Plot 413).

The last of the "seven young Australians" was **Robert Charles Hastwell**, entering the world on the **29th April 1881** at Mallala. His wife was Emily Gwendoline Pearl Fordham, whom he married at the Baptist Church, Norwood on the 18th August 1910. They had five children; in quick succession came Jean Fordham (1912), Jack Brooke (1912) and Joyce Gwendoline (1913), followed by Erica Shirley in 1918 and Robert Duncan in 1927. When the family was living in Alpha Street, Kensington Park in 1918 Robert put an advertisement in the Advertiser, seeking a "*companionable home help, no washing*". His wife must have been

feeling a little overwhelmed by three young children and a baby at that stage – the advertisement stated that the family would pay the fare for a prospective home help if they caught the Marryatville tramcar!

Robert Charles was a distinguished gentleman; a Rotarian, a partner in a secretarial services firm of Duffield, Hastwell and Co, honorary secretary-treasurer of the Adelaide Festival of Arts, and also Manager and Director of Metters Ltd.

He died in hospital at 72 years of age, on the 14th July 1953 and was buried in Centennial Park cemetery, Pasadena.



Emily remained a widow for seventeen years, in the family home at 64 Fergusson Avenue, Myrtle Bank, until her death in 1970.

It seems that around 1884 (when Frederick Hastwell would have been five years old and his brother Robert just three) the business north of Adelaide came to a close for the Hastwells, for an Auction Sale was reported in the South Australian Register of 13th June in that year.

"...reports having sold by auction on June 6, on the farm near Balaklava, in the estate of Hastwell & Sons, draught horses from 16 to 29, wagons, spring-carts, farm implements, harness, at satisfactory prices. The attendance was good, and the bidding brisk. Total amount of sale, £768 13s. 6d. The farm was passed."



Believed to be the original (restored) baker's oven used by Ebenezer at Nairne. Photographed at a historical event in that town in 2014, by John Baker.

South Australian Directories revealed that Ebenezer, between 1872 and 1883, was variously Postmaster, saddler and storekeeper at Mallala. After Hastwell & Sons' farm was disposed of in 1884/85, Ebenezer moved to McKinnon Parade, North Adelaide where he traded as a draper in 1886.

A change in career or fortune led him to be a baker at Nairne in the Adelaide Hills for three years from 1887 to 1890.

From Nairne, in 1891 Ebenezer moved to the suburbs and took over as Postmaster of the Burnside Post and Telephone Offices, and operated the General Stores and Bakery. The Burnside Historical Society provided me with an 1893 newspaper advertisement from "Burnside – The Paddocks Beneath" :

BURNSTIDE Post and Telephone Offices, General Stores and Bakery.

I WISH to take this advantage of thanking my numerous patrons for their past favours. Also to inform the Public generally that I sell Groceries, Crockery, Ironmongery, Etc., at Adelaide and Norwood Prices. If not convenient to call, write for Price list. Teas a speciality from 1s. per lb.; 1½d. allowed by taking 4 lbs. Bread and Small Goods of the very best quality. Try them. Tea Meetings and Picnics supplied on the Shortest Notice.

Yours respectfully,

E. HASTWELL.

1893

Ebenezer undoubtedly regretted a moment's clumsiness on the 4th January 1893, when he accidentally knocked over a kerosene lamp! The resultant fire caused about £8 damage to the stock and fixtures, and although he had insurance with the New Zealand Insurance Company it would have caused some disruption to his business.

As far as I know Ebenezer remained a storekeeper on the corner of High Street and Lockwood Road, Burnside, until at least 1914.

The store & bakery where Ebenezer and his brother James worked in the late 1800's – early 1900's – corner of High St and Lockwood Rd, Burnside. (Photo: Courtesy Robyn Upton)



The SA Directory of 1922 showed him as living at 9 Thornton Street, off Dulwich Avenue, Dulwich – but at some point when he would have been in his seventies he and Eliza moved to 26 Trevelyan Street, Wayville, where he lost his “*dearly beloved wife*”, aged 80, on the 20th February, 1930.

Ebenezer survived Eliza by only about two and a half years, changing residences once again, and finally, to Rose Park. At his death on the 9th October 1932, Ebenezer was 87 years old. He was buried in the West Tce Cemetery, Adelaide.

So the years go on; 170 years down the track from when 8 year old Ebenezer boarded the *Cotfield*. Did he stare in awe and excitement at the sailing ship? Or was he aware only of confusion, a babble of noise, a jostle of masts and rigging from so many ships at the docks - strange smells, salt-laden air mixed with the river odours, creaking timber and just perhaps the need to stay close to his mother and brothers?

Certainly the little boy could have had no idea of his future role in the expansion of the Hastwell family in South Australia. It has been a great and continuing journey!

By Wendy Baker, July 2023

Acknowledgements:

Peter Kingsley Hastwell

Robyn Meredith Upton (formerly Trapp, nee Hastwell)

Claire Hastwell - Recollections

Harry Frith Hastwell - Reflections

Sydney J. Hastwell 1993 "The Hastwell

Family History in S.A."

Graeme Cecil Hastwell

Pearl Clark (nee Hastwell)

Trove Digitised Newspapers

"Life Around the Light, Page 95

A History of the Mallala District Council Area

Compiled by Two Wells, Mallala and District History Book Committee

Published by the Community Development Board, Council District of Mallala

December 1985"

State Library of South Australia (permission to photograph page of diary)