

# Alfred Ocean CHAMBERS 1841- 1903

Alfred's father, John CHAMBERS, came to Tasmania from London in 1841, but it was Alfred CHAMBERS who moved across to Adelaide that is the focus of this narrative. John CHAMBERS was born in London, and spent his early life as a clerk, before an Uncle took him to Ceylon aged around 14 years, where he managed a property for some time. On his return to England aged just 19 years, he sought a course in teacher instruction. At age 25, he married Eliza ROBINS and began a family, before accepting a teaching position in Tasmania, Australia. Alfred was born on the ship 'William Wise', off the coast of South Africa, in 1841. John CHAMBERS was heading to Tasmania to start a new life as a schoolteacher, with his wife and four children, although they arrived with five children.

Alfred grew up in Tasmania, moved to Melbourne with his parents in 1851, and then went to the Victorian goldfields in 1855, aged about 14 years of age. He found work as a store-keeper's assistant. Alfred married Sarah STODART in the goldfields in 1863, and they moved to Adelaide in 1865. Alfred's working career started at Harris, Scarfe and Co., but quickly included being an inventor and manufacturer, mainly of washing machines. He was involved in literary circles and church life, and Alfred was a persistent abstinence promoter. What an amazing life he led.

## John CHAMBERS b c1780

Alfred's grandfather, John CHAMBERS (senior), would have grown up in London, but there are too many baptisms recorded to be sure which record is correct. We know John (senior) married Mary WINTER in 1805 in the Church of St Martin in the Fields, London, and their children were mostly born in Lambeth, Surrey, still a part of London. John junior was born in 1809, the third of six children.

## John CHAMBERS b1809

At age twelve, John worked as a Clerk in a London office, and one year later, an Uncle took him to Ceylon as an assistant. At age 19, he was a seasoned traveller, experienced manager, and a committed Christian when he returned to England. He immediately sought training as a teacher, and John had a number of good references. Twelve years later, in 1841, he had schoolmaster training and teaching experience, and was married to Eliza ROBINS. With four children and a pregnant wife, they set off for Tasmania. They are recorded as arriving in Hobart on 10 October 1841, on the ship 'William Wise'. They arrived with five children, Alfred Ocean CHAMBERS being born off the coast of South Africa.

John was born in Clapham (1), baptised in Lambeth (2), both within London, and was married in Oxford (3).



There is a detailed book published on the CHAMBERS family, 'Schoolmaster - John Chambers 1809-1877' published in 1991 by Judith Prasad. I have a digital and also a paper copy, and they will also be in some genealogy and State libraries.

John CHAMBERS began teaching in Tasmania in Campbell Town, in 1841, and then taught in Launceston, before moving to Melbourne with his family in 1851. He subsequently came to Adelaide from about 1856 to 1860, where he spent the time teaching.

He returned to Melbourne after his wife Eliza died in 1859. This would have been a difficult year because John's 14-year-old son Edwin was a passenger and drowned on the ill-fated voyage of the Admella from Adelaide. It broke up after hitting Carpenter Rocks, near Mt Gambier, with significant loss of life. John did marry again the next year, in Melbourne, Victoria, and had one more child to Alice CHEFFINS. John died in 1877 in Fitzroy, Melbourne.

### **Alfred Ocean CHAMBERS b1840**

Alfred was born on the voyage to Australia in 1841. He grew up with his family in Tasmania, and later in Melbourne. In 1855, Alfred moved to the Castlemaine area of Victoria, aged just 14 years, and was working as a storekeeper's assistant. He met and married Sarah STODART in 1863 in Castlemaine. Sarah has a significant story of her own, being able to trace the STODART line back to the 1550's in Scotland, and now with STODART family members all over the world. Two years later, in 1865, with two children, Alfred and his family moved from Castlemaine to Adelaide, where Alfred began working with Harris, Scarfe and Co. This lasted around two years before Alfred was laid off due to commercial issues from the 1866/7 drought. However, Alfred's fertile mind conjured up ideas for washing machines and other devices that he successfully manufactured for the next 20 years.

A photo of Alfred Ocean CHAMBERS and most of his family, taken around 1884. From left, Eliza, Alfred John, Grace, Edith, Sarah (nee STODART), Henry, Fanny, Alfred O CHAMBERS, George, Walter and Clement. The two youngest children (Amy Isabel and Minnie) were not yet born, and Charles and Frederick had died.



Around 1900, one of Alfred's brothers, Leonard Tasman CHAMBERS was a founder of the Cyclone Fence and Gate Company, acquiring the license to manufacture woven wire products in Australia. Later generations found employment with this Company, including in Adelaide. Alfred's brothers had plants in Melbourne and Sydney, and they wanted to open a Cyclone plant in Adelaide. One of Alfred's sons, Alfred John CHAMBERS, set up and managed the Adelaide factory for a time.

In his later years, Alfred worked with the Destitute Asylum, was involved with the Baptist Church as a lay preacher and abstinence advocate, and he was prominent in literary circles. They were living in Norwood when Alfred died in 1903.

Alfred and Sarah had 13 children, eleven living into adulthood. Most stayed in South Australia, with their twelfth child, Amy Isobel CHAMBERS, being born in 1885.

### **Amy CHAMBERS b1885**

Amy CHAMBERS was born in 1885 in Adelaide, and married Herbert Clair KEIGHTLEY in Subiaco, Perth in 1916. This was during the years from about 1907 when the KEIGHTLEY family had moved to Western Australia. I cannot find out how Amy and Bert met, or what convinced Amy to travel to Perth to marry Herbert KEIGHTLEY. However, most of the children eventually returned to South Australia. Bert and Amy returned to Adelaide after 1918 when their first son was born, but before the second in 1920.

The story of Herbert and Amy KEIGHTLEY (nee CHAMBERS) continues in the KEIGHTLEY narrative, published earlier.

Alfred Ocean CHAMBERS' webpage: <https://jansquire.com/tng/getperson.php?personID=110&tree=squire>

Herbert KEIGHTLEY's webpage: <https://jansquire.com/tng/getperson.php?personID=18&tree=squire>

The KEIGHTLEY narrative: <https://jansquire.com/tng/showmedia.php?mediaID=79&medialinkID=79>

# Facebook Summary

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## Alfred Ocean CHAMBERS

♂ 1841 - 1903 (62 years)

### Generation: 1

[Less detail](#)

1.  Alfred Ocean CHAMBERS was born on 31 Aug 1841 in At Sea,,Algoa Bay,South Africa; was christened on 14 May 1843 in Campbelltown, Tasmania, Australia (son of John CHAMBERS and Eliza ROBINS); died on 9 Dec 1903 in Teresa St, Norwood, South Australia, Australia; was buried on 11 Dec 1903 in West Terrace cemetery, Adelaide, South Australia, Australia.

Notes:

Died:

#### OBITUARY.

The late Mr. Alfred Ocean Chambers, who died at his residence, Teresa street, Norwood, last week, was well known in Adelaide. He was an old colonist, who had experienced the vicissitudes of life on the goldfields and in the bush in Victoria before he settled in this state, nearly 40 years ago.

The deceased gentleman was born, as his second baptismal name suggests, at sea, in 1841. His father, the late Mr. John Chambers, was a schoolmaster, and was on his way to Hobart when his fourth son was born. He settled in Tasmania with his family. He was one of the pioneer temperance advocates in Australia, having signed the pledge in 1832. The late Mr. A. O. Chambers left Tasmania in 1852, and went to Victoria. He at once proceeded to the goldfields, and remained there for about eight years in the capacity of storekeeper's assistant.

In 1865 he came to South Australia, and was employed by Messrs. Harris, Scarfe, & Co. for two years, but was thrown out of work by the commercial depression occasioned by the drought in 1866 and 1867. While he was waiting for an opportunity to secure another situation he conceived the idea of constructing a "commonsense washing machine." He had not had any previous experience as a carpenter, but he succeeded in turning out useful machines, which immediately became popular. He began business as a manufacturer on his own account, and carried on the enterprise for 20 years with success. During that time he perfected several useful mechanical inventions. In 1887 he joined the public service as relieving officer for the city in connection with the Destitute Asylum. He was prominent in literary society work, a foremost member of the baptist Church, and was a lay preacher for a number of years. He was a persistent advocate of total abstinence, and it is said that he was instrumental in securing more than 1,000 pledges. He took an active interest in all kinds of philanthropic work, and the last letter which he wrote to The Register, published on October 12, 1903, was in connection with an appeal he had previously made for monetary assistance for an unfortunate man whom he had befriended.

Mr. Chambers's family consisted of five sons and six daughters.

Transcribed from the Adelaide Observer (SA:1843-1904), 19 December 1903, page 44. Accessed 18 August 2020

Alfred married Sarah Hannah STODART on 14 Feb 1863 in Wesleyan Parsonage, Castlemaine, Victoria, Australia. Sarah (daughter of John STODART and Sarah Ann Edwina ASHBY) was born in 1843 in Bathwick, Somerset, England; was christened on 30 Aug 1843 in Bathwick, Somerset, England; died on 28 Aug 1898 in Hanson St, Adelaide, South Australia, Australia; was buried on 30 Aug 1898 in West Terrace cemetery, Adelaide, South Australia, Australia. [Group Sheet] [Family Chart]

#### Children:

- i. Eliza Annie CHAMBERS was born on 29 Aug 1863 in Lyttleton St, Castlemaine, Victoria, Australia; died on 14 May 1934 in Adelaide, South Australia, Australia.
- ii. Charles CHAMBERS was born in 1865 in Richmond, Victoria, Australia; died on 6 Mar 1867 in Adelaide, South Australia, Australia ; was buried on 7 Mar 1867 in West Terrace cemetery, Adelaide, South Australia, Australia.
- iii. Alfred John CHAMBERS was born on 1 Jun 1867 in Adelaide, South Australia, Australia; died on 22 Apr 1931 in Monaro Rd, Kooyong, Victoria, Australia; was buried on 24 Apr 1931 in West Terrace cemetery, Adelaide, South Australia, Australia.
- iv. Walter Edward CHAMBERS was born on 14 May 1869 in Adelaide, South Australia, Australia ; died on 2 Jul 1929 in Alpha Road, Prospect, South Australia, Australia; was buried on 4 Jul 1929 in Cemetery, Mitcham, South Australia, Australia.
- v. Clement Stodart CHAMBERS was born on 3 Jul 1871 in Adelaide, South Australia, Australia ; died on 14 Apr 1934 in Monaro Rd, Kooyong, Victoria, Australia; was buried on 16 Apr 1934 in General Cemetery, Melbourne, Victoria, Australia.
- vi. Frederick Lionel CHAMBERS was born on 20 Nov 1872 in Adelaide, South Australia, Australia ; died on 13 Sep 1873 in Adelaide, South Australia, Australia; was buried on 15 Sep 1873 in West Terrace cemetery, Adelaide, South Australia, Australia.
- vii. George Templar CHAMBERS was born on 5 Jul 1874 in Adelaide, South Australia, Australia ; died on 21 Mar 1930 in Eton St, Malvern, South Australia, Australia; was buried on 22 Mar 1930 in Cemetery, Mitcham, South Australia, Australia.
- viii. Grace Florence May CHAMBERS was born on 10 May 1876 in Adelaide, South Australia, Australia ; died on 25 Jun 1938 in Unley Park, South Australia, Australia.
- ix. Edith Margaret CHAMBERS was born on 4 Jun 1878 in Adelaide, South Australia, Australia ; died on 30 Oct 1922 in Royal Adelaide Hospital, Adelaide, South Australia, Australia.

- x. Fanny Dora CHAMBERS was born on 15 Dec 1881 in Adelaide, South Australia, Australia; died on 22 May 1951 in St Peters, South Australia, Australia.
- xi. Henry Septimus CHAMBERS was born on 14 May 1883 in Adelaide, South Australia, Australia ; died on 6 Nov 1948 in St Ives, Victoria, Australia.
- xii. Amy Isabel CHAMBERS was born on 17 Mar 1885 in Liston St, Parkside, South Australia, Australia; was christened on 11 Nov 1903 in Adelaide, South Australia, Australia ; died on 21 Jul 1959 in Magill Wards, Magill, South Australia, Australia; was buried on 23 Jul 1959 in Centennial Park Cemetery, South Australia, Australia.
- xiii. Minnie CHAMBERS was born on 31 Dec 1886 in Adelaide, South Australia, Australia ; died on 8 Apr 1951 in Rampage St, Unley, South Australia, Australia.

## Generation: 2

- 2. John CHAMBERS was born on 8 Dec 1809 in Clapham, Surrey, England; was christened on 4 Feb 1810 in Lambeth, Surrey, England (son of John CHAMBERS and Mary WINTER); died on 23 Apr 1877 in Fitzroy, Victoria, Australia.

John married Eliza ROBINS on 27 Dec 1831 in Oxford, Oxfordshire, England. Eliza (daughter of William ROBINS and Dinah ?) was born on 6 Oct 1807 in Abingdon, Berkshire, England; was christened on 8 Nov 1807 in Abingdon, Berkshire, England; died on 6 Mar 1859 in North Adelaide, South Australia, Australia; was buried on 8 Mar 1859 in West Terrace cemetery, Adelaide, South Australia, Australia. [Group Sheet] [Family Chart]

- 3. Eliza ROBINS was born on 6 Oct 1807 in Abingdon, Berkshire, England; was christened on 8 Nov 1807 in Abingdon, Berkshire, England (daughter of William ROBINS and Dinah ?); died on 6 Mar 1859 in North Adelaide, South Australia, Australia; was buried on 8 Mar 1859 in West Terrace cemetery, Adelaide, South Australia, Australia.

Children:

- i. John Stoup CHAMBERS was born on 25 Sep 1832 in Chesham, Buckinghamshire, England; died on 27 Aug 1921; was buried on 31 Aug 1921 in Cemetery, Heidelberg, Victoria, Australia.
- ii. Amelia CHAMBERS was born on 15 Nov 1834 in Woolwich, Kent, England; was christened on 28 Dec 1834 in Woolwich, Kent, England; died on 22 Mar 1844 in Campbelltown, Tasmania, Australia; was buried on 24 Mar 1844 in Campbelltown, Tasmania, Australia.
- iii. Joseph CHAMBERS was born on 12 Feb 1836 in Woolwich, Kent, England; was christened on 10 Apr 1836 in Woolwich, Kent, England; died on 18 Nov 1836 in Woolwich, Kent, England.
- iv. Henry Owen CHAMBERS was born on 23 Aug 1837 in Woolwich, Kent, England; died on 17 Feb 1899 in Balwyn, Victoria, Australia; was buried on 18 Feb 1899 in Cemetery, St Kilda, Victoria, Australia.
- v. William Centenary CHAMBERS was born on 17 Feb 1839 in Woolwich, Kent, England; died on 13 May 1924 in Carlton, Victoria, Australia; was buried in Cemetery, Coburg, Victoria, Australia.
- vi. Abstinence Crofts CHAMBERS was born on 1 Aug 1840 in Woolwich, Kent, England; died on 1 Oct 1840 in Woolwich, Kent, England.
- vii. 1. Alfred Ocean CHAMBERS was born on 31 Aug 1841 in At Sea, ,Algoa Bay, South Africa; was christened on 14 May 1843 in Campbelltown, Tasmania, Australia; died on 9 Dec 1903 in Teresa St, Norwood, South Australia, Australia; was buried on 11 Dec 1903 in West Terrace cemetery, Adelaide, South Australia, Australia.
- viii. Edwin Cheshire CHAMBERS was born on 22 Jul 1845 in Campbelltown, Tasmania, Australia; was christened on 14 Sep 1845 in Campbelltown, Tasmania, Australia; died on 6 Aug 1859 in Carpenters Rocks, South Australia, Australia; was buried in At Sea.
- ix. Leonard Tasman CHAMBERS was born on 3 Dec 1847 in Launceston, Tasmania, Australia; died on 23 Oct 1917 in South Yarra, Victoria, Australia; was buried in Cemetery, Brighton, Victoria, Australia.

## Generation: 3

- 4. John CHAMBERS

John married Mary WINTER on 16 Jun 1805 in St Martin in the Fields, London, Middlesex, England. [Group Sheet] [Family Chart]

- 5. Mary WINTER

Children:

- i. Maria CHAMBERS was christened on 3 Nov 1806 in Lambeth, Surrey, England.
- ii. Ann CHAMBERS was christened on 27 Mar 1808 in Lambeth, Surrey, England.
- iii. 2. John CHAMBERS was born on 8 Dec 1809 in Clapham, Surrey, England; was christened on 4 Feb 1810 in Lambeth, Surrey, England; died on 23 Apr 1877 in Fitzroy, Victoria, Australia.
- iv. Mary CHAMBERS was christened on 8 Dec 1811 in Lambeth, Surrey, England.
- v. Sarah CHAMBERS was christened on 3 Apr 1814 in Lambeth, Surrey, England.
- vi. Joseph CHAMBERS was christened on 5 May 1816 in Lambeth, Surrey, England.

- 6. William ROBINS

William married Dinah ?. [Group Sheet] [Family Chart]

7. Dinah ?

Children:

- i. 3. Eliza ROBINS was born on 6 Oct 1807 in Abingdon, Berkshire, England; was christened on 8 Nov 1807 in Abingdon, Berkshire, England; died on 6 Mar 1859 in North Adelaide, South Australia, Australia; was buried on 8 Mar 1859 in West Terrace cemetery, Adelaide, South Australia, Australia.
- ii. Jerimiah ROBBINS was born on 14 May 1811; was christened on 28 Jul 1811.
- iii. Shadrack ROBBINS was born on 15 Jul 1812; was christened on 20 Sep 1812.
- iv. Dinah ROBBINS was born on 30 Jan 1814; was christened on 10 Apr 1814.
- v. Maria ROBBINS was born on 12 Sep 1815; was christened on 9 Nov 1815.

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<https://jansquire.com/tng>