

Alfred Ocean CHAMBERS 1841- 1903

Alfred's father, John CHAMBERS, decided a move to Australia was desirable, and 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 school-teacher, with his wife Eliza and four children. Alfred grew up in Tasmania, moved to Melbourne with his parents in 1851, and then went to the goldfields in 1855, at about 14 years of age, where he found work as a store-keeper's assistant. Alfred married Sarah STODART in the goldfields in 1863, and moved to Adelaide in 1865. What an amazing start to Alfred's life.

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. 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 when he returned to England, a committed christian and he sought training as a teacher. Twelve years later, in 1840, with schoolmaster experience, and married with four children and a pregnant wife, they set off for Tasmania.

John was born in Clapham (1), baptised in Lambeth (2), and 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.

John CHAMBERS began teaching in Campbell Town, Tasmania, in 1841, and then taught in Launceston, before moving to Melbourne with his family in 1851. It is from here that Alfred Ocean CHAMBERS left home in 1855 for the goldfields. The same year, John resigned his teaching position in Melbourne, and went to Adelaide for four years. 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 Victoria, and had one more child to Alice CHEFFINS. John died in 1877 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, they moved 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.

Alfred Ocean CHAMBERS and most of his family, taken around 1884. From left, Eliza, Alfred John, Grace, Edith, Sarah (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.

In his later years, Alfred worked with the Destitute Asylum, was involved with the Baptist Church as a lay preacher and abstinence advocate, and was prominent in literary work. 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 Isobal CHAMBERS, marrying Herbert Clair KEIGHTLEY. When Alfred's brothers 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.

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

Related Surnames Through Marriage

Sarah Hannah STODART 1843-1898

Alfred's wife was Sarah Hannah STODART, married 14 February 1863 in Castlemaine, Victoria. She was born in 1843 in Somerset, England, and died in Adelaide in 1898. Sarah is Anne SQUIRE's great grandmother.

The STODART line goes back to the mid 1500's, and is properly described in a separate narrative. The early generations are probably correct, as I have most of the references to the Scottish BDM sources, although I have not checked them all. The early information is contained in the publication 'Burke's Landed Gentry', and some of the lineages in that publication are known to be works of fiction. The generations are allegedly as follows:

- John STODART, 1816-1883, married Sarah Ann Edwina ASHBY 1817-1890
- John STODART 1782-1834, married Hannah TOTHILL 1790-?
- James STODART 1756-1829, married Agnes THOMSON 1757-1839
- Adam Haig STODART 1729-1780, married Agnes WILKE ?-1818
- James STODART 1703-?, married Marion HAIG 1706-?
- James STODART 1645-1726, married Elizabeth JOHNSTONE 1668-1754
- James STODART ?(c1620)-1678, married Helen HOWISON ?-?
- ?
- John STODART 1565-?, married ?

Eliza ROBINS 1807-1859

John's wife was Eliza ROBINS married in December 1831 in Oxford, England. It is not clear how they met, for John was teaching in Buckinghamshire, and Eliza was from Berkshire. Eliza was born in 1807 in Abington, Berkshire, and died in North Adelaide in 1859.

Eliza's parents were William ROBINS and Eliza, but I can find nothing further about them.

Mary WINTER

John (Senior's) wife was Mary Winter, married in June 1805, in the church of St Martins in the Field, London. There were two Mary's born here around 1777, but not sure which is our Mary. Likewise, there are too many Johns to know for sure when he was born.

Facebook Summary

Alfred's father, John CHAMBERS, decided a move to Australia was desirable, and 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 school-teacher, with his wife Eliza and four children. Alfred grew up in Tasmania, moved to Melbourne with his parents in 1851, and then went to the goldfields in 1855, at about 14 years of age, where he found work as a store-keeper's assistant. Alfred married Sarah STODART in the goldfields in 1863, and moved to Adelaide in 1865. What an amazing start to Alfred's life.

Alfred Ocean CHAMBERS is Anne SQUIRE's great grandfather. These connections show the relationship of CHAMBERS ancestors to Anne.

Anne's father was Raymond Stodart Keightley, born in 1920 and died in 1998. He married Dorothy Joan LANGDON in 1943.

Anne's grandmother was Amy Isabel CHAMBERS, born in 1885 in Adelaide, and died 1959 in Adelaide. She married Herbert Clair KEIGHTLEY in 1916 in Perth, although they were both from Adelaide.

Anne's great grandfather was Alfred Ocean CHAMBERS, born off the coast of South Africa in 1841, and died in Adelaide in 1903. He married Sarah Hannah STODART in 1863, in Castlemaine, Victoria.

Anne's great great grandfather was John CHAMBERS, born in 1809 in Surrey, England, and died in 1877 in Melbourne. John married Eliza ROBINS in 1805, in Oxford, England .

Anne's great great great grandfather was (also) John CHAMBERS, born around 1780. He married Mary WINTER in 1805 in London.




Alfred Ocean CHAMBERS

♂ 1841 - 1903 (62 years)

Generation: 1

[More 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.
Alfred married Sarah Hannah STODART on 14 Feb 1863 in Wesleyan Parsonage, Castlemaine, Vic, 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](#)]

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 28 Monaro Rd, Kooyong, Vic, 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](#)]
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, Vic, 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 Balwin, Vic, 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, Vic, Australia; was buried in Cemetery, Coburg, Vic, 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](#)]

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](#)]

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.