

Pam Maidment's website on MyHeritage

Charles Edwin Maidment

★ **Born:** July 21 1795

In: 📍 Sedgehill, Wiltshire, England

📅 **Died:** Oct 27 1865 (at age 70)

In: 📍 "Everley Arms", Woodchester, South Australia, Australia

Research

📄 14 Record Matches

🔄 95 Smart Matches™

🔍 Research this person

Info

Events

Timeline

Records

1-5 of 16



Charles Maidment in FamilySearch Family Tree



Charles Maidment in England Births and Christenings, 1538-1975



Charles Maidment in England Births and Christenings, 1538-1975



Charles Maidment in Geni World Family Tree



Edwin Charles Maidment in WikiTree

Photos

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Charles and Esther Maidment and their eight children made the long journey to the 3 year old colony of South Australia from England as free settlers aboard the "Charles Kerr" arriving on the 17th of June 1840. At the time they arrived to the fledgling Port Adelaide the total state only had a population of 15,000 not counting aborigines and these were spread out across several settlements such as Kangaroo Island and what is now Port Adelaide.

He lived at Ashbourne, Macclesfield, Tinpot, Bull Creek

1832 - 1838 - Carpenter - North Bradley. Applied for free passage to Australia early in 1840 at which time he was living at Lower Westwood, Bradford, Wiltshire, and was employed as a carpenter and wheelwright. Sailed from Gravesend, with his entire family, on 6 March 1840 aboard the "Charles Kerr" and arrived in Australia on 17 June 1840. The "Charles Kerr" was a 453/463 ton barque. It was captained by Capt. H Arnold, carried 7 passengers, as well as 57 male and 55 female emigrants and 92 children. It was the 33rd ship to sail to Australia in 1840.

At the time of his death he was recorded as a publican. He died at home, the Everleigh Arms, Strathalbyn, South Australia, as a result of gastric fever after having been ill for a few days prior on 27 October 1865 and his death was registered at Adelaide. He was buried at Church Cemetery, Woodchester, Strathalbyn. Had 8 children.

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HISTORY OF CHARLES & ESTHER MAIDMENT Written by Kaylene Selfeldt

CHARLES and his wife FANNY ESTHER MAIDMENT, nee DOEL arrived at Adelaide on the barque "Charles Kerr" on 17 June 1840, together with their eight children. The two elder children were listed as individual migrants, being 19 and 15 years of age when first registered in England.

Charles was a carpenter and wheelwright from Bradford, Wiltshire, and had married ESTHER at Westbury, Wiltshire on 26th October 1819

Before the advent of motor power, the wheelwright was an important craftsman. He made wheels of all kinds, from those required by bullock wagons, with rims up to six inches (15cm), to the light, fine wheels of buggies and gigs. His craft demanded great skill. Firstly, he had to make a perfect circle of wood and connect it with wooden shafts to the central hub. Then came the making of an iron or steel tyre, once more a perfect circle, exactly the same size as the wooden wheel rim. This was fitted when red hot so that it clamped tightly onto the rim as it cooled down.

Five of the MAIDMENTS children were baptised in the Parish of Westbury and registered in the Vicar's records for the Old Meeting Independent Church, a non-conformist chapel, while a sixth child was baptised at North Bradley.

EDWIN CHARLES, the eldest son, was also a carpenter and joiner from Westbury, while FANNY, the eldest, daughter, was registered as a seamstress from Lower Westwood Wiltshire.

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The newspaper described her cargo as "British Merchandise" but it appears from advertisements that a considerable amount of the various goods which were auctioned consisted of foodstuffs, port, wine, stout, and ale.

Despite extensive searching, at the time of writing this manuscript we have been unable to trace the log of the "Charles Kerr" which may have revealed the full pathos of the journey.

Research has revealed, however, a great deal of information about the sailing ship/emigrant era; from this one gains an insight into some of the difficulties encountered by our forebears.

Icebergs, Fire and fever were the greatest terrors of a voyage. Because of the high risk of fire, especially in wooden ships, only a few lamps were left burning at night.

It is interesting to look closely at the exercise in group co-operation that working in a mess on board ship involved. Six

to eight, or a dozen people, took a wide variety of tasks in turn. Most steerage men took their turn at the mess captain, and so received rations for all. This was position of trust. Even if a man and his family were not by nature were not trustworthy, they dared not take extra food for themselves, for soon it would be the turn of one of their shipmates to be captain. Married women prepared meals which were shared with other women who, next week would take their turn. Both men and women took turns in cleaning the communal table and floor after the mess had eaten together.

The married men took in turn the thankless task of cleaning water closets; taking the role of "constable" to patrol the married quarters at night as a safeguard against fire or theft or anything else untoward.

So the lesson in cooperation went on for anything from 3 to 5 months among all who emigrated steerage. And, while it went on, these people were segregated from those they regarded as their "betters". When at last they reached Australia they were accustomed to the advantages of group effort and turned to it readily in the strange and often inimical new land. Thus the voyage played its part in shaping the Australian ethos.

While there were great differences throughout the era of emigration by sail in the quality of food served to cabin class and steerage passengers, this did not always apply to the quality of water. Water was always a problem, and it was often foul before Cape Town was reached.

Captain passengers did not, of course, wash their own dishes or, for that matter their own clothes. Steerage passengers washed both in salt water, consequently a downpour of rain brought them streaming onto deck with tubs and dishes. Although the water had a flavour of old canvas from the sales, it was much preferred to the ship's water even for drinking. Despite the state of the water, the emigrants seldom thought of foregoing, their mugs of tea or coffee.

Usually water was collected in a "hookpot". This was something like a tin jug with a lid and holding about 2 quarts. The side opposite to the handle was flat and furnished with 2 iron hooks about 2 (5cm) inches apart, and. If the cook had no hot water, you filled this hookpot with cold water and hung it on the bars of the galley stove until boiled. It often happened that in your hurry the hookpot and hot water was on the lower deck before – hence arose the sayings "scaldings below".

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PICTURE OF CHRONOMETER – CLOCK IN A WOODEN BOX

The chronometer, an accurate clock, insulated against the ship's motion, was set on Greenwich Mean Time. It was used in conjunction with the sextant to establish the ship's longitude. A battery of three of them was really needed for if there were only two, who could tell which one was correct. Most masters had to provide their own chronometer and few could afford two let alone three.

Determination of longitude was a simple matter. Sextant sights taken as the sun approached its Zenith determined noon on the ship. By comparing "ship time" with Greenwich Time as kept by the chronometer, the master had a difference of so many hours and minutes. This difference in time he had to convert to degrees – each hour equalled fifteen degrees.

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After the noon sun sight, passage of time on board was measured by a sandglass that took half an hour to run through; the ship's bell was rung each time it emptied.

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PICTURE OF A SANDGLASS

There were 4 different models of sandglass, each used to measure different intervals of time: 4 hours, one hour, half an hour and half a minute. The half minute glass was used in conjunction with the log to measure the ship's speed: the others to measure the length of the crew's speed: the others to measure the length of the crew's watches. The ship's bell was rung each time a half hour glass ran through.

The route originally approved by the Admiralty for the First Fleet became the standard route to Australia. It led first to Teneriffe, the Cape Verde Islands, then to Rio de Janeiro and across the South Atlantic to Cape Town. From there masters were advised to follow the thirty – ninth parallel of latitude to Australia. After about 1817 the Rio de Janeiro call fell from favour and Cape Town was left as the one certain port of call, though, if necessary a call could still be made before this Teneriffe or the Cape Verde Islands to replenish food and water.

As ships neared the equator the winds inevitably fell off, for they were entering the doldrums. The area was inescapable.

At the time of the Maidments family's arrival it was reported in "The southern Australian" – one of the local papers priced at 6 (5cents) pence, and published every Tuesday and Friday – that the good citizens of Adelaide were endeavouring to work a lengthy message of congratulations to Queen Victoria and her Consort, Prince Albert, who had not long been married.

We know that they family applied for relief, due to sickness, during the period of 9th to 21st of July 1840. Emigrants were eligible for relief from the Government for one month from the time of arrival.

The emigration depot, consisting of wooden buildings forming the sides of a square, was erected on the park lands beyond the western corner of North Terrace and each building had several rooms. Emigrants on their arrival from England were sent to the depot and allowed quarters free for a reasonable time, until they obtained employment. An official was in charge of the establishment.

"Emigration Square" as it was called, was much frequented by strollers in the afternoons, especially when new batches of emigrants arrived. Some of the visitors went to welcome friends or relatives and other to engage those they required for service, but the larger proportion merely to while away the time.

Regulations respecting the providing of emigrants for the colony were that the purchaser of every 80 acres section or larger quantities had the right to demand from the Colonization Commissioners the importation of one able-bodied labourer and his wife, to be selected if the party preferred it, by himself or his agent for every 32 pound (\$64) expended in land. On payment for a special survey the purchaser may demand to receive 125 married labourers and their wives, between the ages of eighteen and thirty.

CHARLES and his family moved to Macclesfield, some 27 miles south east of Adelaide, being employed by FRANCIS DAVENPORT. A system of special surveys began in 1839 and was discontinued in 1842. During that period surveys numbered one to thirty-three were undertaken throughout South Australia, and those numbered 9, 10, 11, 12, 13. And 33 were in the vicinity of Macclesfield.

These special surveys were provided for men of capital who could request a survey of 15,000 acres in any district of their choice; they were then required to select a minimum of 4,000 acres, usually in 80 acre sections, and to make a cash payment of 4,000 pounds (\$8,000) for the land obtained. The remaining 11,000 acres of the special survey area was then available for public sale at the minimum price of 1 pound (\$2).

The last of the special surveys was claimed by George Francis Davenport and it was opened for selection on December 2 1841.

Francis Davenport arrived in South Australia in February 1840 with instructions from his father, George, in England, to choose land for the special survey and there was a proviso the acreage had to be set aside for a town which would be mapped and marked out at the expense of the South Australian Commissioners'. He supervised the beginnings of the survey for a small town, but returned to England in 1841 before it was completed.

Macclesfield was named by the Davenports in honour of the Earl of Macclesfield in England, for whom George Davenport was a steward. The Earl's lands contained the English town of Macclesfield.

G Francis Davenport left Henry Giles, as son of the Manager of the South Australian Company, to manage his affairs. Giles evidently did this well, because when Francis returned in 1843 with his wife Sarah, his brothers Robert and Samuel, and Samuels wife Margaret (nee Cleland) a good stone cottage had been built at Macclesfield, an Inn, The Goat's Head had been established, and Maidment, Yates, Ellis and Lillecrapp had gardens in the town.,

G Davenport died during April 1843, about 5 weeks after he had returned to South Australia.

The administration of the special survey became the responsibility of Robert and Samuel after the death of Francis; the legal intricacies were handled by Robert, who had been trained in law. Robert bought the property he called Battunga, while Samuel and his wife Margaret lived in the cottage at Macclesfield.

Samuel Davenport wrote often to his father, an Agent of the South Australian Company, and it is from those letters, which were carefully preserved in England and later presented to the South Australian Archives, that we gain an insight into the difficulties encountered by early settlers.

A plan of the first enclosures at Macclesfield was sent to England in one of Samuel Davenport's letters dated 6 April 1843. This shows that our family's home was situated beside the stone cottage of Samuel, which was the only substantial stone building in the town for a number of years.

Soon after his arrival Samuel Davenport advised that Maidment, Yates, Ellis and Lillecrapp produced capital potatoes, greens, cabbage, onions, cucumbers, watermelons, and sweet-melons, maize, caraway-seed, Cobbett's corn, and some few vine cuttings, all growing luxuriantly; also that Maidment's and Jackson's wheat and straw at Macclesfield were as strong and fine and full as one could wish to see.

The Reverend John Baptist decided to move to Australia with his wife and 8 children. Accordingly he bought approximately 500 acres of land in the Macclesfield area and arrived during January 1844. In England he was well educated in medicine and the sciences, and later became a school teacher and a regular Congregational preacher. He was a valued member Macclesfield pioneer and served the community for many years.

The reminiscences of Edwin Austin, the son of the Rev J.B. Austin have been passed down to posterity and they give some interesting insights into the early days of farming, which would also pertain to the Maidment family. Early settlers existed mainly upon meat and damper. The meat was fresh only for a few days and thereafter it was salted and kept

in casks. One of the delicacy obtained locally was "crawfish", undoubtedly yabbies, caught in the Angas River. Gardens were important to all the pioneer farmers.

The pioneer period for the town of Macclesfield was very much dominated by the Davenport family and their attempt to set up an English type village with a squire, then necessary tradesmen and shopkeepers plus a collection of tenant farmers, some of whom would be given the opportunity to purchase land. This system started a town in the bush and the squire's tenants made a success of clearing and farming the land.

In 1844 Allens Almanac indicated that Charles Maidment's town acres were used to grow 9 acres of wheat, ¼ acre potatoes, and to keep 18 cattle and 7 pigs. From a letter we know that the rental was either 7/- (.70 cents) or 7/6 (.75 cents) per acre.

In a letter dated of 22nd of July 1844. Samuel Davenport reported "Since the 16th we have had unusually heavy rains. The effects have been both depredating and ludicrous so far as this neighbourhood is concerned. The water in the creeks rose three or four feet higher than it has been known to do before. And on rising on Sunday morning last, our fences near and across the creek were found flat or broken away, and beds of collie flowers, radishes and potatoes of some of our neighbours higher up the creek came floating down to us. Huge pieces of timber were picked off the banks in different places and bore along.

A heavy trunk of a gum tree which the Maidments had felled and in the felling made a bridge across the creek – a trunk 4 feet (1.22m) through and 30 feet long (10 Meters) – had been carried through the upper side of our garden fence and had been left high and dry at the lower end"

Later during 1844 churchgoers built a gum slab Congregational Chapel on Lot 156 and this was opened during November 1844.

Early buildings made use of local resources – gum slabs, wattle and daub, straw thatching or stringy bark shingles and sod chimneys.

A distinctive feature of much of the early Macclesfield farming was the large number of tenant farmers who operated on lands made available by the principal purchasers of the special surveys. The tenants paid either an annual cash rental per acre or an annual wheat levy per acre, but there were also variations. Usually parts of sections were leased as it was too expensive for large areas to be farmed.

An example of leasing agreements that can be gleaned from the Davenport letters showed that during early 1845 Charles Maidment and his son, agreed to rent Section 2856 (100 acres) for 14 years. The rental of 1 bushel per acre, increasing to 1 ¼ bushels (delivered in Adelaide by tenant) was low, as the section was heavily timbered and the tenants were expected to make improvements

On the 12th March Samuel wrote,

" They are, I think, desirable tenants, and though 14 years is a long lease, still I conceive – looking at it as the home of two families father's and son's – they will make considerable improvements in that time. I am not sure they will not also take the adjoining Section 2854 which, though woody too, gives them a monopoly of the scenery, and making their home more retired, I expect they will make it".

In this regard, we believe that the son referred to was Edwin Charles, as of the two younger sons, during early 1846 William Joseph became 11 and George James 6. Edwin the eldest child had married in 1843. Edwin was born on 1st of July 1820 and at aged 23 had married Sarah Ann Hogben on 22 November 1843 At St John's church with the Rev. James Farrell officiating and his sister, Fanny, together with William Applebee, as witnesses.

A few weeks later, on 29th April 1846, Samuel wrote, I have lately let Section 2854 (80) acres to old Maidments (joined with a son-in law of the old Maidment) in addition to 2856 let them twelve months since. For 2854 we get one bushel and a quarter, and one bushel and a half per acre. The Maidments are putting up on 2856 a decent half stone half wood cottage and soon go to reside there.

The son-in-law referred to was Henry Saltmarsh, who married Fanny, the second child, on 3rd of June 1845 at Trinity Church with the Rev. James Farrell officiating.

The first year of the lease was given on account of fencing and clearing both Sections, which were situated at Bugle Ranges.

It is believed that Bugle Ranges were so named due to the fact that a bullock named "Bugle" was in the habit of straying into the Ranges. This snippet of interesting local history was passed to per the reminiscences of Edward Austin (Son of Rev. J.B. Austin).

So by mid-1846, 6 years after emigrating, Charles and Esther Maidment would have thought back on their arrival at Adelaide, the uncertainties of this new land, soon followed by the death of Mary on the 8th May 1841, together with the hardships of pioneer life in their wooden cottage at the new town of Macclesfield. They would have recalled the marriages of both Edwin and Fanny as well as the birth of their daughter, Olivia on the 7th December 1845, and looked forward to the challenges of settling down at their property in the Bugle Ranges, 3 miles N>E. of Macclesfield.

In a letter to his father of 22nd September 1846, Samuel wrote, The fencings and improvements on some of the lands thus let are very creditable, and one cannot but regard the several properties as rising in value under the hands of their tenants. The late good times and present improved prospects for the farmers have given them fresh courses in their labour and the improved style of their erections. With means, luxuries arise and with these the stone Chimney supersedes the sod one, glazed windows cotton ones etc"

On the 7th June 1847 sisters Jane and Sophia Maidment married John Wheeler and George Ellis, in a double wedding ceremony celebrate at the Gum Slab Congregational Church.

Carl Gustav Schodlieb as a carry tenant farmer in Macclesfield. He sailed from Grenan in Germany in July 1847. He was

employed by Henry Saltmarsh as a bullock driver and by Charles Maidment in the cropping season. The stone congregational Church was erected in 1847. This replaced the former gum and slab church. Local freemason stone was used and the Rev. Austin laid the cornerstone. The Rev. J. B. Austin officiated in the church until 1879 when failing health caused him to retire.

Samuel, and his wife Margaret Davenport were hospitable people who were always active in public affairs. They had no children. After years in Macclesfield they left the area in 1849.

The first clear indication of who was farming land near Macclesfield can be obtained from what was called a "Declaration of Accrue" in the area were Robert Davenport, 1099 acres, J.B. Austin 494 Acres, and C. Maidment 140 acres. Smaller allotments were farmed numerous people, including Henry Saltmarsh.

The Angas River has played an important part in shaping Macclesfield history and it contributes greatly to the pleasant scenery of the area. The shaded foliated banks are due to English willow trees, the first cuttings of which Robert Davenport obtained from the grave of Napoleon at St Helena. Davenport called in to St Helena on his voyage from England to South Australia; noting the growth of weeping willows on the grave he took some cuttings and preserved them inside potatoes until he transplanted them on the banks of the Angas.

The 1850's was the decade of greatest town development in all Macclesfield's history. The stimulus was undoubtedly the Victorian gold rushes but the smaller gold rushes at Echunga at the same time benefitted the town by providing a ready market for farm and garden produce. Thus the pioneer Macclesfield farmers who survived the first few difficult years of the 1840's were prospering very well ten years later.

The timber of the area was a valuable resource used for firewood and for building post and rail fences. Stringy bark was especially valued as it split easily for wooden shingles.

Macclesfield benefitted from trade that was passing through en route to the Port Phillip District, particularly after the Wellington ferry across the River Murray was opened in 1847

The MAIDMENT family celebrated the marriage of ELIZABETH BURBIDGE, the fifth child, to William Hogben during February 1852.

In Macclesfield petitioned for a district council and CHARLES MAIDMENT was one of the ratepayers who signed the petition.

The first council meeting was held on the 22 October 1853 in a room provided gratis by the publican at the Davenport Arms Hotel.

The 1855 census of the district showed 714 people and there were 130 houses, most of which were built of wood. WILLIAM JOSEPH. The sixth child of ESTHER and CHARLES married Hannah Rogers early in 1855.

By 1855 the South Australian Directory was publishing the names and occupations of people in the district of Macclesfield and, within the district regional names were being used Thus the farmers of Bugle Range included ...William Maidment, Henry Saltmarsh.

By this time, EDWIN CHARLES and SARAH had bought land and moved to Woodchester.

CHARLES and ESTHER MAIDMENT left Bugle Ranges property near Macclesfield in the hands of WILLIAM JOSEPH and also moved to Woodchester, where CHARLES became the proprietor of Everley Inn from 1859 to 1863.

CHARLES then purchased Lot 37 at Strathalbyn in December 1863 for 170 pound (\$340).

Their youngest child JULIA OLIVIA, who was the only child born in South Australia, also married during December 1863.

CHARLES on 27 October 1865 aged 66years (aged 70 shown on his death certificate) followed by ESTHER on 18 June 1866 (aged 66 as shown on her death certificate). They were buried in Strathalbyn Cemetery. Division 1, Plot 330.

A short time after his mother's death GEORGE JAMES, the third son, married FANNY SELINA SCOWN of Meadows during October 1866.

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Another sandglass was included in conjunction with the log to determine the ship's speed. The log – named from the time when it was just that - was dropped overboard to float where it fell, while a line attached to it ran out over the stern as the ship sailed on. At intervals along the line were knots indicating distances. The number of knots passing over the stern, as timed by the glass, gave the ship's speed.

PICTURE OF A SANDGLASS

There were 4 different models of sandglass, each used to measure different intervals of time: 4 hours, one hour, half an hour and half a minute. The half minute glass was used in conjunction with the log to measure the ship's speed: the others to measure the length of the crew's watches. The ship's bell was rung each time a half hour glass ran through.

The route originally approved by the Admiralty for the First Fleet became the standard route to Australia. It led first to Teneriffe, the Cape Verde Islands, then to Rio de Janeiro and across the South Atlantic to Cape Town. From there masters were advised to follow the thirty – ninth parallel of latitude to Australia. After about 1817 the Rio de Janeiro call fell from favour and Cape Town was left as the one certain port of call, though, if necessary a call could still be made before this Teneriffe or the Cape Verde Islands to replenish food and water.

As ships neared the equator the winds inevitably fell off, for they were entering the doldrums. The area was inescapable.

At the time of the Maidments family's arrival it was reported in "The southern Australian" – one of the local papers priced at 6 (5cents) pence, and published every Tuesday and Friday – that the good citizens of Adelaide were endeavouring to work a lengthy message of congratulations to Queen Victoria and her Consort, Prince Albert, who had not long been married.

We know that they family applied for relief, due to sickness, during the period of 9th to 21st of July 1840. Emigrants were eligible for relief from the Government for one month from the time of arrival.

The emigration depot, consisting of wooden buildings forming the sides of a square, was erected on the park lands beyond the western corner of North Terrace and each building had several rooms. Emigrants on their arrival from England were sent to the depot and allowed quarters free for a reasonable time, until they obtained employment. An official was in charge of the establishment.

"Emigration Square" as it was called, was much frequented by strollers in the afternoons, especially when new batches of emigrants arrived.

Some of the visitors went to welcome friends or relatives and other to engage those they required for service, but the larger proportion merely to while away the time.

Regulations respecting the providing of emigrants for the colony were that the purchaser of every 80 acres section or larger quantities had the right to demand from the Colonization Commissioners the importation of one able-bodied labourer and his wife, to be selected if the party preferred it, by himself or his agent for every 32 pound (\$64) expended in land. On payment for a special survey the purchaser may demand to receive 125 married labourers and their wives, between the ages of eighteen and thirty.

CHARLES and his family moved to Macclesfield, some 27 miles south east of Adelaide, being employed by FRANCIS DAVENPORT. A system of special surveys began in 1839 and was discontinued in 1842. During that period surveys numbered one to thirty-three were undertaken throughout South Australia, and those numbered 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, and 33 were in the vicinity of Macclesfield.

These special surveys were provided for men of capital who could request a survey of 15,000 acres in any district of their choice; they were then required to select a minimum of 4,000 acres, usually in 80 acre sections, and to make a cash payment of 4,000 pounds (\$8,000) for the land obtained. The remaining 11,000 acres of the special survey area was then available for public sale at the minimum price of 1 pound (\$2).

The last of the special surveys was claimed by George Francis Davenport and it was opened for selection on December 2 1841.

Francis Davenport arrived in South Australia in February 1840 with instructions from his father, George, in England, to choose land for the special survey and there was a proviso the acreage had to be set aside for a town which would be mapped and marked out at the expense of the South Australian Commissioners'. He supervised the beginnings of the survey for a small town, but returned to England in 1841 before it was completed.

Macclesfield was named by the Davenports in honour of the Earl of Macclesfield in England, for whom George Davenport was a steward. The Earl's lands contained the English town of Macclesfield.

G Francis Davenport left Henry Giles, as son of the Manager of the South Australian Company, to manage his affairs. Giles evidently did this well, because when Francis returned in 1843 with his wife Sarah, his brothers Robert and Samuel, and Samuels wife Margaret (nee Cleland) a good stone cottage had been built at Macclesfield, an Inn, The Goat's Head had been established, and Maidment, Yates, Ellis and Lillecrapp had gardens in the town.

G Davenport died during April 1843, about 5 weeks after he had returned to South Australia.

The administration of the special survey became the responsibility of Robert and Samuel after the death of Francis; the legal intricacies were handled by Robert, who had been trained in law. Robert bought the property he called Battunga, while Samuel and his wife Margaret lived in the cottage at Macclesfield.

Samuel Davenport wrote often to his father, an Agent of the South Australian Company, and it is from those letters, which were carefully preserved in England and later presented to the South Australian Archives, that we gain an insight into the difficulties encountered by early settlers.

A plan of the first enclosures at Macclesfield was sent to England in one of Samuel Davenport's letters dated 6 April 1843. This shows that our family's home was situated beside the stone cottage of Samuel, which was the only sub-stantial stone building in the town for a number of years.

Soon after his arrival Samuel Davenport advised that Maidment, Yates, Ellis and Lillecrapp produced capital potatoes, greens, cabbage, onions, cucumbers, watermelons, and sweet-melons, maize, caraway-seed, Cobbett's corn, and some few vine cuttings, all growing luxuriantly; also that Maidment's and Jackson's wheat and straw at Macclesfield were as strong and fine and full as one could wish to see.

The Reverend John Baptist decided to move to Australia with his wife and 8 children. Accordingly he bought approximately 500 acres of land in the Macclesfield area and arrived during January 1844. In England he was well educated in medicine and the sciences, and later became a school teacher and a regular Congregational preacher. He was a valued member Macclesfield pioneer and served the community for many years.

The reminiscences of Edwin Austin, the son of the Rev J.B. Austin have been passed down to posterity and they give some interesting insights into the early days of farming, which would also pertain to the Maidment family. Early settlers existed mainly upon meat and damper. The meat was fresh only for a few days and thereafter it was salted and kept in casks. One of the delicacy obtained locally was "crawfish", undoubtedly yabbies, caught in the Angas River. Gardens were important to all the pioneer farmers.

The pioneer period for the town of Macclesfield was very much dominated by the Davenport family and their attempt to set up an English type village with a squire, then necessary tradesmen and shopkeepers plus a collection of tenant farmers, some of whom would be given the opportunity to purchase land. This system started a town in the bush and the squire's tenants made a success of clearing and farming the land. In 1844 Allens Almanac indicated that Charles Maidment's town acres were used to grow 9 acres of wheat, ¼ acre potatoes, and to keep 18 cattle and 7 pigs. From a letter we know that the rental was either 7/- (.70 cents) or 7/6 (.75 cents) per acre.

In a letter dated of 22nd of July 1844. Samuel Davenport reported "Since the 16th we have had unusually heavy rains. The effects have been both depredating and ludicrous so far as this neighbourhood is concerned. The water in the creeks rose three or four feet higher than it has been known to do before. And on rising on Sunday morning last, our fences near and across the creek were found flat or broken away, and beds of collie flowers, radishes and potatoes of some of our neighbours higher up the creek came floating down to us. Huge pieces of timber were picked off the banks in different places and bore along.

A heavy trunk of a gum tree which the Maidments had felled and in the felling made a bridge across the creek – a trunk 4 feet (1.22m) through and 30 feet long (10 Meters) – had been carried through the upper side of our garden fence and had been left high and dry at the lower end" Later during 1844 churchgoers built a gum slab Congregational Chapel on Lot 156 and this was opened during November 1844.

Early buildings made use of local resources – gum slabs, wattle and daub, straw thatching or stringy bark shingles and sod chimneys.

A distinctive feature of much of the early Macclesfield farming was the large number of tenant farmers who operated on lands made available by the principal purchasers of the special surveys. The tenants paid either an annual cash rental per acre or an annual wheat levy per acre, but there were also variations. Usually parts of sections were leased as it was too expensive for large areas to be farmed.

An example of leasing agreements that can be gleaned from the Davenport letters showed that during early 1845 Charles Maidment and his son, agreed to rent Section 2856 (100 acres) for 14 years. The rental of 1 bushel per acre, increasing to 1 ¼ bushels (delivered in Adelaide by tenant) was low, as the section was heavily timbered and the tenants were expected to make improvements

On the 12th March Samuel wrote,

" They are, I think, desirable tenants, and though 14 years is a long lease, still I conceive – looking at it as the home of two families father's and son's – they will make considerable improvements in that time. I am not sure they will not also take the adjoining Section 2854 which, though woody too, gives them a monopoly of the scenery, and making their home more retired, I expect they will make it".

In this regard, we believe that the son referred to was Edwin Charles, as of the two younger sons, during early 1846 William Joseph became 11 and George James 6. Edwin the eldest child had married in 1843. Edwin was born on 1st of July 1820 and at aged 23 had married Sarah Ann Hogben on 22 November 1843 At St John's church with the Rev. James Farrell officiating and his sister, Fanny, together with William Applebee, as witnesses.

A few weeks later, on 29th April 1846, Samuel wrote, I have lately let Section 2854 (80) acres to old Maidments (joined with a son-in law of the old Maidment) in addition to 2856 let them twelve months since. For 2854 we get one bushel and a quarter, and one bushel and a half per acre. The Maidments are putting up on 2856 a decent half stone half wood cottage and soon go to reside there.

The son-in-law referred to was Henry Saltmarsh, who married Fanny, the second child, on 3rd of June 1845 at Trinity Church with the Rev. James Farrell officiating.

The first year of the lease was given on account of fencing and clearing both Sections, which were situated at Bugle Ranges.

It is believed that Bugle Ranges were so named due to the fact that a bullock named "Bugle" was in the habit of straying into the Ranges. This snippet of interesting local history was passed to per the reminiscences of Edward Austin (Son of Rev. J.B. Austin).

So by mid-1846, 6 years after emigrating, Charles and Esther Maidment would have thought back on their arrival at Adelaide, the uncertainties of this new land, soon followed by the death of Mary on the 8th May 1841, together with the hardships of pioneer life in their wooden cottage at the new town of Macclesfield. They would have recalled the marriages of both Edwin and Fanny as well as the birth of their daughter, Olivia on the 7th December 1845, and looked forward to the challenges of settling down at their property in the Bugle Ranges, 3 miles N>E. of Macclesfield.

In a letter to his father of 22nd September 1846, Samuel wrote, The fencings and improvements on some of the lands thus let are very creditable, and one cannot but regard the several properties as rising in value under the hands of their tenants. The late good times and present improved prospects for the farmers have given them fresh courses in their labour and the improved style of their erections. With means, luxuries arise and with these the stone Chimney supersedes the sod one, glazed windows cotton ones etc"

On the 7th June 1847 sisters Jane and Sophia Maidment married John Wheeler and George Ellis, in a double wedding ceremony celebrate at the Gum Slab Congregational Church.

Carl Gustav Schodlieb as a carry tenant farmer in Macclesfield. He sailed from Grenan in Germany in July 1847. He was employed by Henry Saltmarsh as a bullock driver and by Charles Maidment in the cropping season.

The stone congregational Church was erected in 1847. This replaced the former gum and slab church. Local freemason stone was used and the Rev. Austin laid the cornerstone. The Rev. J. B. Austin officiated in the church until 1879 when failing health caused him to retire.

Samuel, and his wife Margaret Davenport were hospitable people who were always active in public affairs. They had no children. After years in Macclesfield they left the area in 1849.

The first clear indication of who was farming land near Macclesfield can be obtained from what was called a "Declaration of Accrue" in the area were Robert Davenport, 1099 acres, J.B. Austin 494 Acres, and C. Maidment 140 acres. Smaller allotments were farmed numerous people, including Henry Saltmarsh.

The Angas River has played an important part in shaping Macclesfield history and it contributes greatly to the pleasant scenery of the area. The shaded foliated banks are due to English willow trees, the first cuttings of which Robert Davenport obtained from the grave of Napoleon at St Helena. Davenport called in to St Helena on his voyage from England to South Australia; noting the growth of weeping willows on the grave he took some cuttings and preserved them inside potatoes until he transplanted them on the banks of the Angas.

The 1850's was the decade of greatest town development in all Macclesfield's history. The stimulus was undoubtedly the Victorian gold rushes but the smaller gold rushes at Echunga at the same time benefitted the town by providing a ready market for farm and garden produce. Thus the pioneer Macclesfield farmers who survived the first few difficult years of the 1840's were prospering very well ten years later.

The timber of the area was a valuable resource used for firewood and for building post and rail fences. Stringy bark was especially valued as it split easily for wooden shingles.

Macclesfield benefitted from trade that was passing through en route to the Port Phillip District, particularly after the Wellington ferry across the River Murray was opened in 1847

The MAIDMENT family celebrated the marriage of ELIZABETH BURBIDGE, the fifth child, to William Hogben during February 1852.

In Macclesfield petitioned for a district council and CHARLES MAIDMENT was one of the ratepayers who signed the petition.

The first council meeting was held on the 22 October 1853 in a room provided gratis by the publican at the Davenport Arms Hotel.

The 1855 census of the district showed 714 people and there were 130 houses, most of which were built of wood.

WILLIAM JOSEPH. The sixth child of ESTHER and CHARLES married Hannah Rogers early in 1855.

By 1855 the South Australian Directory was publishing the names and occupations of people in the district of Macclesfield and, within the district regional names were being used Thus the farmers of Bugle Range included ...William Maidment, Henry Saltmarsh.

By this time, EDWIN CHARLES and SARAH had bought land and moved to Woodchester.

CHARLES and ESTHER MAIDMENT left Bugle Ranges property near Macclesfield in the hands of WILLIAM JOSEPH and also moved to Woodchester, where CHARLES became the proprietor of Everley Inn from 1859 to 1863.

CHARLES then purchased Lot 37 at Strathalbyn in December 1863 for 170 pound (\$340).

Their youngest child JULIA OLIVIA, who was the only child born in South Australia, also married during December 1863.

CHARLES on 27 October 1865 aged 66years (aged 70 shown on his death certificate) followed by ESTHER on 18 June 1866 (aged 66 as shown on her death certificate). They were buried in Strathalbyn Cemetery. Division 1, Plot 330.

A short time after his mother's death GEORGE JAMES, the third son, married FANNY SELINA SCOWN of Meadows during October 1866.
