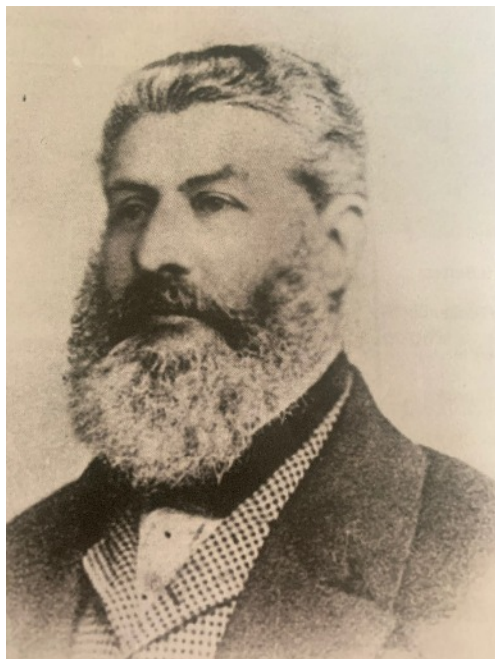


Re-Dedication of Gravesite of **POLICE COMMISSIONER** GEORGE DASHWOOD



Sunday 25th July 2021
2.00 pm

**St George's Anglican Church Cemetery,
Meadows**

The SA Police Historical Society
invite community members to this historic
occasion, following the repair of
Commissioner Dashwood's grave.
Inquiries: Chaplain Sue Ellis 0427162009

George Frederick Dashwood (1806-1881), naval officer and public servant, was born on 20 September 1806 in London, the son of James Dashwood of Bracknell, Berkshire.

Having trained at the Royal Naval College, Dartmouth from 1819, Dashwood's career included serving as lieutenant under Captain Fremantle on HMS Challenger. He was on board when the ship called at Fremantle, Western Australia, in September 1832 and he did this view of Pakenham Street, Fremantle in pencil, ink and watercolour.



State Art Collection, Art Gallery of Western Australia: Gift of Mrs C J Dashwood, 1926

He was a skilled artist and the State Library of Western Australia holds one of his sketch books which includes pencil and watercolour sketches of Fremantle as well as views of Sydney, Tahiti, Rio de Janeiro and England.

Dashwood was promoted captain in December 1833. Due to ill health, he retired on half-pay in 1837. Although an Anglican, he married Sara Rebecca Loine in a Roman Catholic ceremony in London on 27 December 1839. In the early 1840s the Dashwoods and their two children sailed to Adelaide in the Orissa.

Although the Admiralty had allowed him only two years leave, he decided to settle on the land with his family and bought an estate between Meadows and Kangarilla which became known as Dashwood's Gully. Early in 1843 after South Australia came completely under Colonial Office control, he applied to Governor (Sir) George Grey for the remission money allowed in other colonies to ex-servicemen on the purchase of land, but his claim was rejected.

In 1858 after South Australia was given control of its land policies, he tried again and won a remission of £400.



B 16521/3 Reproduction rights: State Library of South Australia

The Dashwood home in Dashwood's Gully

In 1843 Dashwood was appointed one of the four non-official nominees in South Australia's first Legislative Council. Next year he resigned because living in Adelaide was costly and kept him away from his estate. Finding farming equally expensive, he sought government employment.

From 1847 to 1852 he was commissioner of police, with an interval as stipendiary magistrate at Port Adelaide. For the next four years he was collector of customs, which gave him a seat in the Legislative Council.

In May 1855 he was granted leave and visited England. Soon after his return he was appointed emigration agent for South Australia in London; Dashwood hoped this position would be permanent but in December 1860 it was abolished.

He returned to Adelaide and, until his retirement in 1879, served as a stipendiary magistrate. In 1878 he was promoted commander by Admiralty indulgence. He died on 15 March 1881.

George Frederick Dashwood's grave site has been newly refurbished by members of the South Australian Police Historical Society. Society members cleaned debris from his grave site, repairing and erecting the headstone for Dashwood's grave, as well as a cross on the grave of his wife Sarah. They also repaired their son Charles' grave site.

After receiving word that Dashwood's grave site had been vandalised and was in urgent need of TLC, Historical Society member Ron Squire took to Facebook to fundraise, and recruit assistance to refurbish the site. Happily, the Society raised enough money to restore Dashwood's grave site, and erect a story board detailing his achievements which will be placed near the grave.

Reference

J. Gilchrist, 'Dashwood, George Frederick (1806–1881)', Australian Dictionary of Biography, National Centre of Biography, Australian National University, accessed online 9 July 2021.

