

The *Register* was purchased in June 1845 by John Stephens, who was also the founder of the *Christian Advocate* and the *Adelaide Observer*. Reporters were sent to Port Adelaide to travel out with the pilots to board the ships arriving from London and scoop the latest overseas news.

Early newspaper production was labour intensive. In 1840, three years after its founding, the *Register* was running five printing presses and employed a large staff – the editor, ten compositors, three pressmen, two binders, a collector, a clerk, a delivery man and two boys as runners. Caleb Page, who worked for almost 70 years with the newspaper described how, in the 1850s, type was set by hand, one letter at a time and each of the newspaper's four pages were printed individually on enormous cylinders with the printing machine making "a noise like a quartz-crusher" (*Observer*, 9 June 1923). In 1855 the *Register* became the first newspaper in SA to be printed by steam-driven presses.

Philip Mann then spoke to us about his great-grandmother, Johanne Louise Bradtke. He told us that she was the eldest of the six Bradtke children who arrived on the *Heerjeebhoy Rustomjee Patel* in 1845 – "a massive year of change" for his ancestor.

Johanne Louise was born in Cicha Góra, Posen, Prussia, to Anna Rosina Dorothea Schlinke on

7 June 1823 but details of her father are unknown. Anna then married the blacksmith, Wilhelm Bradtke, in 1829.

Philip displayed a map of the region around Posen and described Cicha Góra as a village near Neutomischel ("Nowy Tomysł" in Polish) in Posen. It began in 1757 as a location for an Ołędz ("Haulander" in German) settlement created by clearing the forest and improving the land. The Prussian-Polish aristocrats who owned the land wished to increase the area of cultivation and the profitability of their estates by collecting rents from the new settlers.

Taking advantage of the specific soil and climate conditions, they cultivated hops and wicker, among other things. In addition, they were engaged in animal breeding, beekeeping, fishing, crafts, trade, and ran inns. Johanne Louise grew up in this rural community and, as the oldest girl in a large and growing family, she would have helped her mother in raising the younger ones.

Philip had no information on why the family left Cicha Góra. Johanne Louise's uncle, Daniel Schlinke, had come to SA with the Old Lutherans and had established a water mill at the new village of Bethany in the Barossa Valley and could well have written of the opportunities in this distant land. The King of Prussia, who had been persecuting the Old Lutherans, had died in 1840 and religious restrictions were

easing. But Posen was part of Prussia and, even in the Haulands, the lives of rural peasants would have been very restricted, for example, with the ownership of land and who they could marry.

To emigrate, they had to get to the port of Bremen, that distance today being more than 600 kilometres. There were no trains from Posen to Bremen in 1845 and it would have been a multi-stage journey, likely by horse-drawn coach or wagon for the initial land travel, followed by a boat or steamboat along rivers and canals. Most of the passengers on this ship were from Posen, Silesia or Brandenburg and their travel arrangements would have been organised by agents; Alfred Swaine, who had connections with the South Australia Company, came with them on the five-month voyage and possibly organised all the European and ocean travel.

The Bradtke family travelled in the cramped communal steerage accommodation among 262 other German immigrants. According to the Bradtke family history book, the family was probably met by Johanne Louise's uncle, Daniel Schlinke, and taken by wagon and foot to his home in rural, undeveloped Bethany, where he was operating a water mill.