

James BEAN (1840-1882)

James was baptised at Bardwell on 8 May 1842. He migrated on the 'Trade Wind' to Tasmania in 1851 with his parents, Robert (1809-1900) and Martha nee Huff (1813-1886) and siblings: Henry (1834-1903), George (1848-1928), Ann (1837-1910), Robert Jun. (1839-1914), Walter (1844-1896), John (1846-1906), Sabina (1849-1931), Charles (1853-1932) and Lewis (1855-1941). The Bean family were sponsored by WS Button of Launceston. 'Trade Wind' records James as being aged 17, single, CE, no education and a shepherd.

James married Mary Ann (Marianne) Pocock (1848-1940) on 22 October 1867 at 'Cleggin', Evandale. Mary was born on 3 October 1848 in Mortlake, Surrey in England and was the daughter of William (1809-1883) and Catherine nee Carey (1813-1879). The Pocock family migrated to Tasmania from Liverpool on the ship 'Panama' in April 1853. William relocated to Canterbury, New Zealand after his wife's death in 1879 in Tasmania.

James and Mary had six children before James was admitted to the insane hospital in New Norfolk on 8 January 1879. He died at the New Norfolk Hospital for the Insane on 29 June 1882, aged 35. Cause of death was 'brain disease and cardiac syncope'. Admission Statement for James: male, 32 years, married, farm labourer, CE, previously residing in Evandale Municipality. This was the first attack at the age of 32, no previous treatment. Existing attack has been six weeks. Supposed Cause: Religion. Not suicidal and not dangerous to others. Next of Kin, wife, Mary Ann Bean residing at Mr Boyds, Strathmore, Evandale and Father, Robert Bean resides at Longford. ... he says the Lord has condemned him to Hell, for his wickedness. He is singing hymns all the night through ... he is the possession of great wealth and proprietor of stage coach ...

Prior to being admitted to the New Norfolk Hospital James was an inmate of the Launceston General Hospital where he was described as being a person of unsound mind. He suffered from attacks of intermittent melancholy during which he would not speak, nor take his food. He said 'the Lord has condemned him to Hell, for his wickedness'. He sang hymns all night and wandered about the ward naked.

Mary Ann moved to New Zealand where at least three of their children were living. She died at the age of 91 in Christchurch, New Zealand. She did not remarry.

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