

Robert (1809-1900) and Martha (nee HUFF) BEAN (1813-1886)

Robert Bean (1809-1900) and his wife, Martha (nee Huff – 1813-1886) migrated to Tasmania on the 'Trade Wind'. They were accompanied by their ten children: Henry (1834-1903); Anne (1837-); Robert (1839-1914); James (1840-1903); Walter (1842-1896); John (1844-1906); George (1846-1928); Sabrina (1849-1931); Charles (1850-1932) and Lewis (1853-1941). The family were discharged from the Quarantine Station, Impression Bay to WS Button of Launceston per night coach on 22 March 1858.

The children were born in Bardwell, Suffolk. The 1841 England Census shows Robert as being aged 30, an agricultural labourer, living in Bardwell Street, Bardwell. The 1851 England Census records the family living at Calico Row, Bardwell. Bardwell is a village and civil parish in the West Suffolk district of Suffolk, England. It is located about ten miles north-east of Bury St Edmunds between the villages of Ixworth, Stanton and Honington.

William Stammers Button, Esq. Button sponsored the entire family. Button, who was born in Suffolk, first came to Tasmania in 1833 in the ship 'Forth', bound for Circular Head and Launceston. He was accompanied by his brother Thomas Button and half-brother JS Waddell and other members of his family. Thomas Button and JS Waddell also sponsored 'Trade Wind' migrants. After arriving in Tasmania William firstly set up his residence at Norfolk Plains and later moved to Launceston for business purposes. He was highly respected in Tasmania and became well known as a chief member of the Anti-Transportation League. When Launceston was declared a municipality, he was elected a member of the first Council and its first Mayor on 1 January 1853.



Robert was born on 8 April 1809 in Palgrave in Suffolk. He was a farm labourer, aged 44, married with no education at the time of migrating to Tasmania. He belonged to the Church of England faith. He married Martha Huff on 25 December 1833 in Bardwell, Suffolk. Robert was the son of Robert (1785-1859) and Lucy nee Cook (1784-1854). Martha was the daughter of Simon Huff (1775-1828) and Susan nee Calver (1780-1851). Both families resided in Bardwell.

It is probable Robert and Martha remained in the Longford district since their arrival until their deaths. Robert died at his son's residence (Henry) at Longford in January 1900 at the age of 90. Martha died 14 years earlier on 27 April 1886, aged 75. They were buried at Longford Church of England Christ Church, Longford.

For further information contact bettypilgrim@hotmail.com.