

Harriett BLIZZARD (1850-1934)

Harriet migrated to Tasmania on the 'Trade Wind' in 1858 along with her parents, George (1811-1890) and Phoebe nee Blake (1814-1897), and nine of her siblings: Frances (1836-1902), Louisa (1839-1907), David (1841-1933), George (1845-1913), Eliza (1847-1875), William (1843-1895), Charles (1852-1931), James (1854-1932) and Catherine (1856-1941). Her eldest brother, John (1833-1900), remained in England with his wife, Elizabeth nee Smith (1831-1902) and their two children: Robert and George. Harriett was born about 1850 at Euston in Suffolk. She was aged 8 and was able to read when arriving in Tasmania.

Harriett married William Mathew Burley (1841-1939) on 23 May 1870 at Horton in Tasmania. William was the son of ex-convicts William (1817-1896) and Sarah nee Mahon (1812-1864). William Sen. was convicted at Lincoln City Quarter Sessions on 22 October 1836 for Felony: stealing silver coin. He had been convicted twice before. William, aged 22, was transported for 14 years per 'Elphinsone' (2). The Gaol Report noted his character and connexion bad; his behaviour on the hulk was good. Prior to transportation William was a groom and brickmaker. Sarah was transported for assault and robbery for 7 years per 'Mary Anne' departing Dublin on 27 November 1840. She was from Kildare, Ireland, a widow, aged 28 and a servant. Permission was given on 30 June 1844 for their marriage which took place on 12 August 1844 at St David's, Hobart. Sarah died with bronchitis on 5 December 1864 at Stanley.

Harriett and William Jun. lived at Ridgley and had nine children. A son, Thomas Matthew Burley (1883-1917) was Killed in Action in France on 11 April 1917. He had suffered shell shock a few months before his death. Another daughter, Louisa (1881-1924), predeceased her mother by ten years.

Harriet and William moved to Victoria to reside with their daughters about 1912. Harriet died at Christmas Hills in Victoria on 19 January 1934, aged 85. William died the following year, also in Victoria, aged 94.

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