

## **James BLIZZARD (1854-1932)**

James migrated to Tasmania on the 'Trade Wind' in 1858 along with his parents, George (1811-1890) and Phoebe nee Blake (1814-1897), and nine of his siblings: Frances (1836-1902), Louisa (1839-1907), David (1841-1933), George (1845-1913), Eliza (1847-1875), William (1843-1895), Harriett (1850-1934), Charles (1852-1931) and Catherine (1856-1941). His oldest brother, John (1833-1900), remained in England with his wife, Elizabeth nee Smith (1831-1902) and their two children: Robert and George. James was only aged three when embarking on the perilous journey to Tasmania.

James married Lucy Jane Dobson (1862-1902) on 26 March 1879 at the home of Mr Blizzard at Black River. Lucy was aged 16, the daughter of a farmer and ex-convict John George Dobson (1814-1904) and Elizabeth nee Stokes (1825-1911). John, a ploughman, aged 19, was convicted at Northampton Assizes on 27 February 1832 for house breaking and transported per 'Surrey' from Downs on 4 December 1832 arriving VDL 124 days later. He was initially sentenced to death but sentence was commuted to transportation for 14 years. It is uncertain whether Elizabeth was also a convict.

Lucy and James had eight children. A daughter, Louisa Harriet (1882-1986), lived a very long life as she was aged 104 at her death. A son, James Lewis (1892-1917) was Killed in Action in Belgium on 5 October 1917. He married Lucy Louisa Enniss (1896-1985) on 25 August 1914 at Stanley and they had one daughter, Rosanne Edith Zella (1916-2004), known as Zella. Lucy remarried on 3 January 1919 at Stanley to George Walter Etchell (1893-1971).

James Sen. was a well-known supporter of cricket and football in the Circular Head district. After ceasing playing he was a much sought after as a cricket umpire.

James lived at Murrays Road, Stanley as well as at Forest. He died at the residence of his daughter, Mildred (1884-1965 - Mrs WD Wells of Smithton) in May 1932, aged 77. James had been in poor health for several years. His wife, Lucy Jane predeceased him by about thirty years. It is believed she died as a result of giving birth to their daughter, Veda Violet (1902-1963).

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