

Ebenezer BLOOMFIELD (1836-1918)

Ebenezer was born on 6 May 1836 in Bardwell, Suffolk in England. Several 'Trade Wind' migrants came from the Bardwell area including the Bird and Blizzard families. A Walter Bloomfield also migrated on the 'Trade Wind'. He too was born in the Bardwell district. It is likely Walter was a cousin. Edward's parents were Edward (1802-1878) and Emaly nee Bart (1807-1856).

Ebenezer was aged 21, single, literate and a carpenter when migrating to Tasmania on the 'Trade Wind' in 1858. He was sponsored by John Amos of Hobart Town and was discharged to him from the Quarantine Station, Impression Bay on 11 April 1858. John Amos (1806-1880) was a Tasmanian colonist who was one of the first explorers of the Swanport district. John Amos, in May 1821, in company with his father, Adam (1774-1845) of 'Glen Gale' and George Meredith (1778-1856) of 'Cambria', Swansea, came from Hobart Town to Swansea in an open whale boat. John Amos settled on a property, 'Glen Herriot' near Swansea and it would have been on this property where Ebenezer firstly worked.

Ebenezer married Harriet Gephcoatt Ball (1839-1921) in Victoria in 1873. Ebenezer was aged 37 and Harriet aged 34 years of age. Harriet may have arrived in Melbourne on board the 'Sussex' which departed Gravesend and arrived in Melbourne in January 1866. She was aged 27 and English born. Harriet was possibly baptised on 7 October 1839 at Coventry, St Michael, Warwickshire. Her father was not named and her mother was Sarah Ball who was a Filler at the House of Industry in Warwickshire. From 1801 the monastery was employed as the Coventry Workhouse. Initially the Coventry authorities ran the 'House of Industry' in quite a benevolent manner, giving out-relief to poor outside the house as well as work, clothing and food to the poor within. However, the *Poor Law Act* of 1834 tightened up on such 'inefficiencies' and a much harsher regime was to ensue.

A son was born to Harriet Ball, Alfred Leslie (1867-1957), about six years before her marriage to Ebenezer. Ebenezer adopted Alfred about 1901 as his Will left most of his estate to his wife, Harriet and the 100 acres purchased to his adopted son, Alfred Bloomfield stating 'Alfred was the child taken by him about 17 years ago and living with him'. Harriet possibly had a daughter as her death notice recorded she died at her daughter's residence, Hampden Street, Latrobe. It is possible she was Harriet's daughter-in-law.

In 1875 Ebenezer purchased 101 acres, 2 Roods at Wycombe, Devon (Reedy Marsh) and in 1885 a further 100 acres in the same district for £102/11/8. Prior to the second purchase Ebenezer sold his first property. It was advertised in 1884 as a farm at Reedy Marsh, near Deloraine, 101 acres; about 40 acres ploughed and part laid down with grass. It was divided into six paddocks. The buildings consisted of one two-roomed hut, two-stalled stables, dray shed, chaff shed, barn and pig styes. There was also a small sheep run.

Ebenezer died at Reedy Marsh on 1 February 1918, aged 82. Harriet died at her daughter's residence, Hampden Street, Latrobe on 11 April 1921. Harriet was aged 83 years.

For further information contact bettypilgrim@hotmail.com. If a reader has any information about Harriet Ball it would be appreciated if they contacted the above email.