

Phillip BRANNING (1839-1921) (aka Brunning/Browning)

Phillip was aged 18 (c1839), single, illiterate, a ploughman from Suffolk when migrating to Tasmania on the 'Trade Wind' in 1858. He was sponsored by Charles Butler of Hobart Town and discharged to him from the Quarantine Station, Impression Bay on 15 April 1858.

Charles Butler (1820-1909) resided in Hampden Road, Battery Point. He was regarded as the father of the Tasmanian Bar, and head of the old-established firm of Butler, McIntyre and Butler. Mr Butler arrived in Hobart on 13 December 1835. He then attended school at Longford and afterwards was articled to Mr Robert Pitcairn, the leading solicitor in Hobart at the time. After spending five years in Pitcairn's office, Butler passed his examination as a legal practitioner, and was admitted to the Bar on 4 December 1843. Butler started practice on his own account, but subsequently gave up practice, and followed agricultural pursuits. He later became a partner in his father's legal business.

'Trade Wind' records show Phillip as being recorded under the different names of Branning, Bruning and Browning. Browning was his name of the ship's Destination List.

It is likely Phillip was the son of agricultural labourer, William Brunning (1803-1872) and Ruth Maria nee Denny (1810-1882). A Phillip Brunning was born in Thetford, Norfolk in 1840. The 1851 England Census for Honington, Suffolk records: William, aged 48, agricultural labourer, born Honington, Suffolk; Ruth Maria, aged 41, born Norfolk; William 13, agricultural labourer; Phillip, 11, crow boy; Robert, 9; George, 6; James Denny, 8; and Sarah Ann, 3 months. Phillip's occupation as a crow scarer was generally a casual worker employed in scaring birds by shouting, or by using rattle or shot gun.

Honington is a village in the West Suffolk district of Suffolk; and borders Norfolk. Honington in Suffolk and Thetford in Norfolk are only about 6 miles (10 m) apart.

It is almost certain Phillip under the name of Browning married Ellen Seager (1848-1883) in 1870 in Bathurst, NSW. They had six children; the youngest was born in 1883 at the same time as her mother's death at the age of 35. Phillip remarried Sarah B Nutter in the RC Presbytery, Bathurst, on 17 July 1884.

Phillip Browning died in the RSS hospital at Redfern, NSW, on 23 October 1921, aged 81.

For further information or if a reader can provide any additional information please contact bettypilgrim@hotmail.com.