

George CLAXTON (1844-1922)<https://stors.tas.gov.au/CON31-1-10P4>

George was aged 13, and a labourer when migrating to Tasmania on the 'Trade Wind' in 1858 with his parents William (1814-1897) and Hannah (1811-1876) and four siblings. He was baptised on 15 March 1846 in Covehithe in Suffolk.

CERTIFICATE OF MARRIAGE.

DISTRICT, *Launceston* Register No. *180*
on *1st* September 1898 *1st* day of *September*
Marriage by *(V)* *Rev. J. H. Barranger*
John and Barranger of the Baptists
Name (in full) *George Claxton*
Residence, Present *Launceston* Usual *Launceston*
Age (last Birthday) *54*
Profession or Occupation *Farmer*
Condition (Bachelor or Widower) *Bachelor*
If Widower { Former Wife deceased in year *18*
Children living *1* dead *1*
Betrothal *1st* day of *September*
Father's Name (in full) *William Claxton*
Occupation *Farmer*
Mother's Name (in full) *Hannah (neé Lister) Barr*
Name (in full) *Jessie Barranger*
Residence, Present *Launceston* Usual *Launceston*
Age (last Birthday) *53*
Profession or Occupation *Domestic Servant*
Condition (Spinster or Widow) *Widow*
If Widower { Former Husband deceased in year *1897*
Children living *6* dead *1*
Betrothal *1st* day of *September*
Father's Name (in full) *Samuel Dale*
Occupation *Labourer*
Mother's Name (in full) *Ann (neé Watkins) Barranger*
This Marriage was solemnized between us
George Claxton
Jessie Barranger
In presence of us Witnesses
John Barranger Address *Launceston*
Charles J. Barranger Address *Launceston*
The above Marriage was duly solemnized by me at the time and place above named, and in the presence of the Witnesses whose Signatures are above written.
Witness my hand this *1st* day of *September* 1898
(Signature) *Rev. J. H. Barranger*
(Diocesan) *Launceston*
Two Copies to be forwarded to Registrar-General within seven days after solemnization of Marriage.
Penalty for omission to transmit such Certificate, five and sixpence each.

George was a farmer at Breadalbane in 1879; a labourer at Evandale between 1881-1888 and an overseer at West Tamar in 1892.

George married Jessie Dale (previously Bane and Barranger – 1843-1916) on 1 September 1898 at the York Street Baptist Church Manse. George was aged 51 and Jessie was aged 53. They had been in a de facto relationship for a number of years and had seven children together before they married. They married after Jessie's second husband, John Barranger (1813-1897) had died at the age of 84. Jessie was aged 17 when she married John Barranger, a blacksmith, who was aged 42. John and Jessie had lived at White Hills and John conveyed mail between White Hills and St Leonards. They had six children. Jessie had been married before the marriage to John Barranger. The first marriage was to William Bane in 1860 and they had one son.

Jessie was the daughter of ex-convict Samuel (1818-1900) and Ann nee Watkins (1822-1855). Samuel was transported for seven years for stealing pigeons. Jessie was born at Patterson's Plains, near St Leonard in 1843 and died on 7 October 1916 at 'Darleymore', St Leonards.

A little over five year's after his wife's death, George was found floating in the North-Esk River, near St Leonards on 30 January 1922. Evidence at the Coroner's Court found George had been in the water for about a week. Death was due to asphyxiation caused by drowning. A son, George Charles Claxton, of 9 Thompson Street, Inveresk told the court his father had been living in a room at Laura Street. After New Year he had stayed with a daughter and her husband, William James Morrison, butcher of St Leonards. Morrison believed his father-in-law had some 'inward trouble' and in low spirits over the loss of his pension which had been taken from him some months before. Trooper William Gunton found some clothes and articles strapped to a tree about 50 yards from the body and he believed they were placed to attract attention. An inquest found the death was 'suicide whilst temporarily insane'.

For further information contact bettypilgrim@hotmail.com.