

### **Robert DOCKING (1831-1906) and Elizabeth nee THIRKETTLE (1836-1892)**

Robert was born on 28 July 1831 at Syderstone, Norfolk. His parents were Thomas (1812-1889) and Ann nee Simpson (1809-1890). Robert's father was the brother of Samuel Docking, Mary Ann's late husband. Mary Ann migrated to Tasmania on the 'Trade Wind' with her five children on the same voyage as Robert and Elizabeth.

Robert was aged 26, a Wesleyan, literate and a sawyer from Norfolk when migrating on the 'Trade Wind' in 1858. He was sponsored by WS Button of Launceston. Robert's wife, Elizabeth nee Thirkettle (1836-1892) also accompanied him. They were married on 19 May 1856 at St Leonard's Parish Church in Shoreditch, London. Elizabeth was pregnant with her first child on the voyage. George Arthur Felix was born at sea on 9 November 1857. His birth was registered in Launceston.

Elizabeth was the daughter of James Thirkettle (1812-1881) and Martha nee Harris (1814-1863). She was baptised on 14 Feb 1836 at Freethorpe, Norfolk. Elizabeth's father was a wheelwright. Elizabeth was aged 21 and a general servant when migrating. She was also sponsored by WS Button.

Robert purchased 9 acres 3 roods 30 perches of land in Launceston in 1863 for the sum of £44. He purchased more land in 1867 of 1 roods, 24 perches in Launceston for £13. One of these properties may have been the property he owned and lived in at 34 Stone Street, Launceston.

Robert and Elizabeth had nine children. A son was in his 100<sup>th</sup> year when deceased. All of the family remained in Tasmania with the exception of the youngest daughter, Elizabeth, (1876-1928) who moved to Victoria.

Robert died on 21 June 1906 at the home of his daughter, Elizabeth Currie in Bayswater, Victoria. The death notice in the *Daily Telegraph* recorded he was from Stone Street, Launceston and aged 74. His Will recorded he was a bootmaker, late of Launceston. His Will provided for John and Frank Docking and Lydia Ann Docking. In the 1911 assessment roll, 38 Stone Street is owned by his estate with Lydia Ann Docking living in the residence. Robert Thomas owned and lived in 34 Stone Street.

Elizabeth died at her residence, Stone Street, Hillside Crescent, Launceston, on 23 July 1892 at the age of 57. Her funeral service was held at the Primitive Methodist Church in Frederick Street with members of the Olive Branch and Star Tents requested to attend the funeral for the late wife of Bro. Robert Docking.