

Charles (1835-1911) and Harriet (1829-1880) FIRMAN

Charles migrated on the 'Trade Wind' arriving in Tasmania in 1858. Charles was aged 22, married, Church of England, literate, a groom and coachman from Suffolk. He was accompanied by his wife, Harriet. Charles and Harriet were sponsored by F.R. Tasmania of Hobart Town. Harriet was aged 28, literate and a cook from Suffolk. They were discharged to Mr W Rout (Rant) from the Quarantine Station, Impression Bay on the evening of 4 April 1858.

Firman Charles	22	male	light	flint complexion	Suffolk	Groom & Coachman	F.R. Tasmania
" Harriett	28	female	dark	flint complexion	"	Cook	"



Charles and Harriet's sponsor, 'F. R. Tasmania', was the pseudonym of Francis Russell Nixon, DD, Lord Bishop of Tasmania. The Rev. Dr Nixon (1803-1879) was the first Bishop of Tasmania. A letter in the *Mercury* on Friday 11 July 1862 (p5) confirms 'F R Tasmania' as his pseudonym. According to the following biography [Dictionary of Australian Biography N-O \(gutenberg.net.au\)](http://gutenberg.net.au)

Nixon left Tasmania due to ill health and returned to England before retiring in Italy.

Charles was likely to be the son of Francis Firman (1810-1888) and Maria nee Brooks (1811-1898). He had at least seven siblings. In the 1851 England Census, Charles was aged 15, born at Easton, Suffolk and an agricultural labourer. He was living with his family at Grange Farm, Easton, Thetford, Suffolk.

Charles married a Harriet Challis on 23 October 1857 in Bardwell, Suffolk. This would have been shortly before the 'Trade Wind' departed Gravesend on Friday 6 November 1857.

Charles was still in Tasmania in September 1862 as his name was listed in a subscription. The subscription list was printed in the *Mercury* on Saturday 13 September 1862 (p7).

No further record for Charles nor his wife, Harriet, could be found after this time. It is possible they returned to England at the time his sponsor, the Rev. Dr Nixon returned. A family researcher on *ancestry.com* has both Charles and Harriet passing away in Huntingdonshire in England; Charles in 1911 and Harriet in 1880. According to this researcher Harriet was Charles' second wife.

If anybody has any additional information about this family it would be appreciated if they contacted bettypilgrim@hotmail.com.