

William PEEK aka Peak, Peake, Peck (1839-1909)

William was aged 28, single, could read and write, belonged to the Church of England faith and was a groom and farm labourer from Essex, when migrating to Tasmania on the 'Trade Wind' in 1858. William was sponsored by Askin Morrison of Hobart Town and discharged to him from the Quarantine Station at Impression Bay on the evening of 26 March 1858.

Askin Morrison sponsored several passengers on the 'Trade Wind' mainly coming from the border of Essex and Suffolk; most were agricultural labourers. Morrison arrived in Tasmania in 1829. He was a well known and respected business person and land owner. Some of the properties Morrison owned were St Peter's Pass, near Oatlands; Rosny, at Bellerive; Runnymede and Prosser's Plains. St Peter's Pass remains in the Morrison family, almost 200 years after Morrison first settled there.

William's parents are likely to be William (1813-1878) and Harriet nee Clampin (1813-1895) PEAKE. In the 1841 and 1851 England Census, the Peake family were living at Bures St Mary, Suffolk. According to the 1851 England Census William Jun. was aged 11 and born at Bures St Mary, Suffolk. He had seven siblings aged between two and nineteen. Bures is a village in eastern England straddling the Essex/Suffolk border. It is made up of the two civil parishes: Bures Hamlet in Essex and Bures St Mary in Suffolk. The place is bisected by the River Stour, the county boundary from end of its estuary to near its source. Lamarsh, Essex, where a number of the 'Trade Wind' migrants came from and were sponsored by Askin Morrison, is a neighbour of Bures in Suffolk.

It is not known how long William remained in Tasmania. His next known movement was in 1880 when he married Mary Phillips in New Zealand. William Peek, born 1840 in Bures, Essex, England died in 1909 (aged 68-69) in Clyde Central Otago District, Otago in New Zealand. He was buried at the Drybread Cemetery, Lauder, Otago, New Zealand. His occupation was a miner. William was buried in Plot 105. Also at the Drybread Cemetery were William Phillip Peek (Plot 106), Mary Louisa Peek (1891-1892) and Clara Winifred Peek (1893-1893 – Plot 107).