

Elizah (Elijah) WILKERSON (1836-1879)

Elizah, according to 'Trade Records' was aged 21 [born about 1836], single, a Methodist, literate and a ploughman from Norfolk when migrating to Tasmania in 1858. He was sponsored by John Amos of Swan Port and discharged from the Quarantine Station at Impression Bay to him on 11 April 1858. John Amos (1806-1880) was a Tasmanian colonist, one of the first explorers of the Swanport District. Amos, in May 1821, in company with his father, Adam (1774-1845) of 'Glen Gale' and George Meredith (1778-1856) of 'Cambria', Swansea, came from Hobart Town to Swansea in an open whale boat. John Amos owned 'Glen Herriot' near Swansea.

In the 1841 England Census Elizah Wilkerson, born about 1836, was aged 5, born at Swannington, Norfolk. He was christened on 28 May 1836 at Swannington, Norfolk to George Wilkinson and Anne. His father, George Wilkerson, was aged 30, an agricultural labourer. It is probable his mother was Mary Ann who died between July and September 1840, at St Faiths, Norfolk. His father, George, a widower, remarried in 1842 to Hannah Eagle, a spinster of St Faiths, Norfolk. She was born in Little Witchingham.

In the 1851 England Census for Little Witchingham, St Faiths, Norfolk: George, 42, 1809, agricultural labourer, Hannah, 36, 1815; Elijah, 14 (1837), agricultural labourer; James, 5 (1846), scholar, Norfolk and John Eagle, father-in-law, widower, 78 (1773), agricultural labourer.

Elijah was not in the 1861 England Census. No doubt this was because he had migrated to Tasmania. However, he reappeared in the 1871 Census for Little Witchingham. At the Hospital Farm, Elijah, 34, agricultural labourer, born Swannington plus Julia his wife, 29, born Boston, Norfolk and two children William, 4 and Earnest, 2 both born at Little Witchingham were living next door to his father, George, aged 63 and stepmother, Hannah aged 56 plus a half sister, Georgiana, 14.

Elijah, a bachelor married Julia Groom, a spinster, on 19 October 1866 at St Faith's, Little Witchingham, Norfolk. Julia was the daughter of John and Mary Groom and born at Booton, Norfolk.

Elijah, aged 42, died June 1879 at St Faith's, Norfolk, England.