

John ABRA, Jun. aka Abray (1832-1901)

John Abra Jun. was born at Hockham, Norfolk on 19 August 1832. He accompanied his parents on the 'Trade Wind'. He was aged 25, a ploughman, and was sponsored by William Archer of Launceston. John was discharged from the Quarantine Station, Impression Bay on 7 May 1858 to Mr Archer.

It is not known which William Archer John was sponsored by. It may have been William Archer (1820-1874), of Fairfield, the second son of Thomas Archer, Esq. of 'Woolmers' or William Archer (1788-1879) of 'Brickendon', Longford.

John married Mary Perrin (1840-1898) on 24 December 1863 in the home of Mr John Hudson, Charles Street, Launceston. Mr Hudson was likely to be a relative, possibly a brother of Mary Abra. There were a number of Hudson's in Tasmania who were born at Hockham in Norfolk at the time of John's marriage.

Mary Perrin was the daughter of Lawrence (1802-1856) and Susannah nee Fisher (1820-1905). Mary's father was an ex-convict who was convicted in 1819 in Middlesex to transportation for Life for pickpocketing a silk handkerchief from a gentleman. Lawrence became well known in Launceston, opening a general store, in Wellington Street in 1850. Lawrence was a familiar sight, as a hawker at local race meetings, selling mainly cigars. Mary's mother too had an interesting background. She arrived in Tasmania in 1835 from Ireland. Susannah, and a younger sister, were orphan children and lived with a married sister at Cork. Returning from school one day they went on board the emigrant ship 'Charles Kerr' to see a friend off. While on board the vessel sailed. They reached Tasmania on 20 November 1835.

John and Mary had seven children, all born in the Launceston district. At least three of their children moved to New Zealand.

John died on 24 July 1901 at Trevallyn, aged 70. Mary died on 22 October 1898 in Launceston, aged 57.

For further information about the Abra family contact bettypilgrim@hotmail.com.