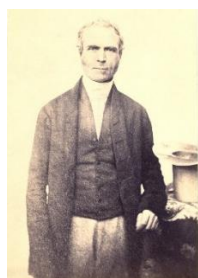


Hannah BANYARD (1839-1885)



Hannah was aged 18, single, could read and write and a general servant when she arrived in Hobart on the 'Trade Wind'. She was sponsored by George Washington Walker¹. Walker met her on the evening of 9 April 1858 when she was discharged from the Quarantine Station, Impression Bay. Hannah's ship details record that she was of the Church of England faith, however, Walker was a very well-known member of the Society of Friends (Quakers). Hannah's birth village also had a Quaker following.

Hannah was born in 1839 in Hopton, Suffolk, England. Her parents were George (1800-1840) and Elizabeth nee Smith (1804-c1874). Hannah's father died when she was an infant. In the 1841 England census for Hopton her mother was described as being a pauper. Apart from Hannah there were two sisters: Emmerley and Mary. In the 1851 census Hannah was living in the home of her Uncle, Robert Smith, who was a blacksmith. She was a scholar. Neither of her sisters were living in the same home. Hopton is a village and civil parish in the West Suffolk district of Suffolk in eastern England. It is located just south of the Norfolk border.



George Washington Walker (1800-1859) was a linen draper, banker and humanitarian. In 1845 he opened the Hobart Savings Bank beside his drapery business in Liverpool Street, to encourage savings by poorer people. Walker had ten children so it is not surprising that he needed a general servant, like Hannah, to help the family. The family lived at Narryna in Hampden Road, Battery Point and this is where Hannah may have worked.

A little over two years after her arrival in Tasmania, Hannah married Jacob Shearing on 16 April 1860 in St John's Church, Ouse Bridge, Hamilton. Shearing was also a passenger on the 'Trade Wind' and further details about him can be found under his name.



Two children were born in Tasmania and another five after moving to Crookston, Otago, New Zealand in around 1864-65 where Jacob purchased a property. Hannah died at Crookston at the age of 45 on 16 January 1885, leaving a husband and seven children, the youngest being only aged four years of age.²

¹ The picture of George Washington Walker was taken from the University of Tasmania Library Special and Rare Materials Collection – Quaker Collection (utas.edu.au)

² The picture of Hannah Shearing was found on *ancestry.com*.