

George BLIZZARD Sen. (1812-1890) and Phoebe nee Blake (1814-1897)

George and Phoebe migrated to Tasmania on the 'Trade Wind' along with 10 of their 11 children: Frances (1836-1902), Louisa (1839-1907), David (1841-1933), William (1843-1895), George Jun. (1845-1913), Eliza (1848-1875), Harriet (1850-1934), Charles (1852-1931), James (1854-1932) and Catherine (1856-1941). Their oldest son, John (1833-1900) remained in England with his wife, Elizabeth Smith (1831-1902) and their two children: Robert and George. George Sen. was recorded as being aged 45, literate, and a ploughman upon his arrival.

The Blizzard family came from Euston, a village and civil parish in the West Suffolk district of eastern England. It is part of the Thingoe Rural district and it is a parish near Bardwell where fellow other passenger's originated including the Bean family. It is likely they knew each other before embarking. The road distance between Bardwell and Euston is 4.86 miles or 7.82 kms.

George was born about 1812 at Ashill, Norfolk. His parents were both born in Suffolk: Thomas (1779-1851) at Bardwell and Mary Ann nee Fields (1788-1869) at Coney Weston. By 1833 George was living in Barningham, Suffolk. He married Phoebe Blake (1814-1897) there on 31 May 1833. Phoebe was born on 23 January 1814 at Barningham in Suffolk, the daughter of John Blake (1786-1848) and Frances nee Jackson (1766-1814). Phoebe's father was born at Barningham and her mother at Ixworth, Suffolk. Phoebe's mother died when Phoebe was only about three weeks of age.

George and family were sponsored by John Hayes (1805-1884) of Hobart Town. They were discharged to him from the Quarantine Station, Impression Bay on the evening of 10 April 1858. John Hayes, of Marlbrook, Bagdad, was the first white man born in Tasmania. Hayes was born in 1805 at Risdon; his father, Thomas Hayes, being one of the 12 settlers who accompanied Colonel Collins' memorable expedition some years before that date. When John was nine years of age his father left the little settlement at Risdon, and settled down at Bagdad, in the Brighton district of which he was the pioneer, and where he engaged in agricultural and pastoral pursuits until his death. John Hayes remained on the parental estate, and in 1828 married Louisa Henrietta Peters (1808-1863), by whom he had nine children.



George travelled to the Stanley district by at least 1855 where he settled in Forest on a 40-acre block. A Blake family had already settled in the district prior to George and Phoebe embarking. George was a timber cutter and farmer in the area. Most of the Blizzard children remained in the North-West Coast of Tasmania, two moved to Victoria.

George died on 17 July 1890 at Forest at the age of 78. He was held with high esteem in the district. His wife, Phoebe, died on 19 November 1897 at Black River, aged 83. Phoebe had been a nurse in the Circular Head district.

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