

## **Harriet BROWNE (1831-1920)**

Harriet was aged 26, single, literate, a dressmaker from Norfolk when migrating to Tasmania on the 'Trade Wind'. She was described as being of fresh face, medium light blue eyes with a mild expression. Harriet was probably born at Little Ellingham in Norfolk.

Harriet was sponsored by Mary Ann Langston (nee Brown), Harriet's sister. Mary Ann married William Arthur Langston at St George's Church, Hobart, on 7 February 1853. Harriet and Mary Ann's mother, Mary Ann Upcroft (nee Cann, previously Brown), accompanied Harriet on the 'Trade Wind'. Mary Ann Upcroft's first husband was Bradford Brown(e), Harriet's father. They married on 23 October 1821 at Little Ellingham, Norfolk.

Harriet, aged 30, married Wilson Robertson, aged 34, on 7 January 1863 at St David's Cathedral, Hobart. Wilson, an engineer, signed the marriage registration with his mark X. He arrived in Hobart, aged 26, on 29 September 1854 per 'Caroline Middleton', with his wife, Ann (nee Wilson, aged 24) and daughter, Mary, aged six. Wilson and Ann were married on 24 July 1845 at Dundee in Scotland. On 2 March 1862 Ann died at her residence, Sandy Bay. She was aged 31 years. The Brethren of the Tasmanian Independent Order of Odd Fellows, Manchester Unity were requested to attend her funeral; presumably Wilson was a member of this Order.

Harriet was about five months pregnant with their son, when Wilson died in a horrible accident on board the steamer 'Cobre'. According to press reports the steamer was near Sandy Bay Point on its way to Huon when Wilson stumbled and fell down, his leg hanging over the iron floor. The revolving crank seized on the upper portion of his thigh, and with crushing force smashed the thigh bone, and almost tore his leg from his body. He was admitted to the general hospital in Hobart but died on 15 August 1864 of severe injuries.

Harriet and their son, Wilson Thomas Robertson, who was born on 27 January 1865 in Hobart, moved to Melbourne. Both, mother and son, died at 191 Dow Street, Port Melbourne; Harriet on 9 April 1920 at the aged of 89 and Wilson on 31 January 1932, aged 67.

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