James BYE (1820-1887)



James was born about 1820 in Snettisham in Norfolk, a son of John Bye (1789-1873) and Jane nee Hardy (1797-1876). James was accompanied by his wife, Susan nee Mason (aka Dixon - 1833-1883) and three year old George (1855-1935) when migrating on the 'Trade Wind' to Tasmania in 1858.

James was aged 38 when he arrived. Ship's records show he was able to read and write and occupied as a shepherd. James was sponsored by William Archer of Launceston. He left the Quarantine Station, Impression Bay, on 11 April 1858 and travelled, with his wife and child, by steamer 'William Miskin' to Launceston.

James Bye [Picture from ancestry.com – Richard Bird]

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It is probable James worked for William Archer, Sen. of 'Brickendon' at Longford rather than William Archer Jun. Mr Archer (1788-1879) arrived in Tasmania in 1824 and among other imports brought with him 30 merino sheep. These formed the foundation of fine wool in Tasmania. James worked for Mr Archer until about 1862. He remained working as a shepherd until his death in 1873, aged 67.

Two of John's siblings also migrated to Tasmania: William (1833-1928) and Keziah (1837-1922). Both arrived in Tasmania on 28 August 1857 per 'Southern Eagle'. William was a farm labourer and sponsored by TC Dowling. Keziah (aka Kessie) migrated with her husband, George Ayres (1829-1893) and their son George William (1856-1896).

James married Susan nee Mason (aka Dixon) on 25 July 1857 at St Mary's Church, Illington in Norfolk. Susan's father was George Mason (aka Dixon -1807-1881) and Sarah nee Shinn (1808-1885). The marriage registration recorded Susan's last name as Mason. (See further information about Susan on her listing.)

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James and Susan lived at 'Saundridge', Longford in 1862 and then by 1864 at McCrae's Hill, Cressy. 'Saundridge' was owned by William Archer's son, Robert Joseph Archer (1832-1914), of 'Brickendon'. The property was well-known, situated in the Cressy district, about 28 miles from Launceston.

James died on 1 April 1887 at McRae's Hill. The cause of death was due to heart disease. Susan predeceased her husband. She died on 25 March 1883 at Cressy, aged 48. The cause of death was 'exhaustion.' They were buried at the Holy Trinity Anglican Cemetery at Cressy.

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