

## **William CAPEWELL (1836-1897)**

William was aged 21, single, could read and a collier from Staffordshire when migrating on the 'Trade Wind' to Tasmania in 1858. William was discharged from the Quarantine Station in Impression Bay to New Town on his own account on 29 March 1858.

William was sponsored by John Foster (1792-1875) of Hobart Town. John Foster arrived in Tasmania in 1823 on the ship 'Berwick' from England. Upon his arrival John established himself at Fosterville near Campbell Town undertaking agricultural and grazing pursuits. Among other large properties he owned in Tasmania and Victoria he also owned the Douglas River Coal Company. It is likely William worked for John as a collier at this mine.

In 1867 William was a Director of the Working Miners' Gold Mining Company Limited. The object of this Company was to work a part of the ground known as 'Umbrella Flat' at Mangana, which had been proved to be gold bearing, and in which it was believed there was a gutter, conveying gold from Major's and other gullies. (*The Cornwall Chronicle*, 26 Jan 1867, p6)

In approximately 1867 William relocated to Newcastle in New South Wales. His obituary on Friday 3 September 1897 in the *Newcastle Morning Herald and Miners' Advocate* reported:

New Lambton - Death. Mr William Capewell, an old and respected resident of 30 years, passed away yesterday morning, after a short illness, the cause of death being pneumonia and inflammation of the lungs. The deceased was 65 years of age, and a native of Staffordshire, England. He served three years as an alderman, being one of the first nine elected to the council after incorporation in 1889. He was also a member of the Oddfellows' Lodge and Sons of Temperance. In politics he was an out-and-out Protectionist, and a very active one at a Parliamentary election. There is much sympathy in the community with the bereaved widow and family.

Headstone for William Capewell. Death 1897, New Lambton, Lake Macquarie City, NSW. Buried Sandgate Cemetery, Newcastle. Burial date 3 Sep 1897. Son of James and Phyllis.

Details of William's family in Australia are not known.

William was baptised on 16 October 1836 at Kingswinford and St Mary Chapelry, Staffordshire. His parents were James and Phyllis nee Marsh (Border?). James died in 1842 and his mother remarried Abraham Hodson (or Hudson). William and his brother, Thomas, lived in this household. In the 1851 England Census for Kingswinford, Staffordshire, William was recorded as being born in Gornal, Kingswinford, Brierley Hill, born about 1837. His mother, Phillis Hudson, born about 1815, aged 61, migrated to NSW on 15 February 1876 per 'Earl Dalhousie'. Ship's records detail she was a widow, born Staffordshire, her parents were both dead, she belonged to the Primitive Methodist faith, could read. Her relations in the Colony were her son, W Capewell of Lampton and brother, Henry Border.