

## Eliza CLAXTON (1844-1922)

Eliza was aged 15 when migrating in 1858 to Tasmania on the 'Trade Wind' with her parents William (1814-1897) and Hannah (1811-1876) and four siblings: George (1846-1922), Emma (1849-1858), William Jun. (1852-1940) and Henry (1854-1924). Sadly her sister, Emma (1849, 1858), died on the voyage. In the 1851 England Census the family lived at Redhouse farm, Covehithe, Suffolk. Her father was a horse driver and farm labourer. Eliza was baptised on 15 March 1846 at Covehithe, Suffolk.

Eliza's occupation was a housemaid and as for the entire family she was sponsored by Thomas Button of Launceston. The Destination List for the 'Trade Wind' incorrectly records her name as 'Master Claxton'.

Eliza firstly married John Johnson on 3 August 1861 in Launceston. They had one daughter, Emma (1863-1949). It is likely John was a farmer from White Hills.

When married, and where.	Name and Surname.	Age.	Rank.	Signature and Description of Parties.	Name of Clergyman, Officiating Minister, or Deputy Registrar.	When registered.	Signature of Deputy Registrar or Officiating Minister.
St Pauls Aug 3rd 1861	John Johnson Eliza Claxton	22 15	Launceston Spinster	Launceston Spinster	J. P. Parnham	Aug 3rd 1861	J. P. Parnham

married in the Church of St Paul according to the Rites and Ceremonies of the Church of England by Banns by  
This Marriage was solemnized between us } J. P. Parnham  
In the presence of us } Henry Parnham  
William Johnson Minister.

After her husband's death Eliza remarried John Bryan at the York Street Baptist Church in Launceston on 29 August 1889. John Bryan was the son of Silas Bryan (1815-1881) and Emma nee Hawkins (1818-1904). He was born on 9 April 1846 in the Fingal District of Tasmania. John was a witness to a murder at his father's property in 1861. Ex-convict, John Hailey, was convicted to murder and hanged. John Bryan and Eliza had at least four children.<sup>1</sup>

Eliza died on 29 April 1922, aged 79, at her residence Cataract Hill off York Street in Launceston. Husband, John Bryan, predeceased her by seventeen years. He died at 349 York Street, Cataract Hill, aged 60 after a long and painful illness. Both were buried at the Charles Street Cemetery, Launceston.

<sup>1</sup> Betty Pilgrim has written a book about this murder in Cullenswood called the 'Break O'Day Murders'.