

### **William CLAXTON, Sen. (1814-1897)**

William Claxton (aka Clackston) was a farm labourer, aged 41, born about 1814 in Ixworth, a village in the West Suffolk district, about five miles (9.7 km) north-east of Bury St Edmunds when migrating to Tasmania in 1858 on the 'Trade Wind'. He was accompanied by his wife, Hannah nee Bean (1813-1876) and children: Eliza (1844-1922), George (1846-1922), Emma (1849-1858), William Jun. (1852-1940) and Henry (1854-1924). Daughter, Mary, did not accompany her family to Tasmania. Mary was born about 1848 in Covehithe in Suffolk. She was aged three in the 1851 England Census. It is probable Mary died before her parents embarked on their journey to Tasmania. In the 1851 England Census the family lived at Redhouse farm, Covehithe, Suffolk rather than Norfolk. William was a horse driver as well as a farm labourer.

William and his family were sponsored by Thomas Button of Launceston. Thomas Button was one of Launceston's most enterprising commercial men, conducting a large tannery and flour mill in Margaret Street. Several other 'Trade Wind' families were sponsored by Thomas Button, including the Hampstead and Stagoll families.

William married Hannah (Ann) nee Bean at Thingoe, Suffolk, in early 1839. Hannah was born on 19 February 1811 in Palgrave, Suffolk. Her parents were Robert (1785-1859) and Lucy nee Cook (1784-1854). Hannah's brother, Robert (1809-1900) also migrated to Tasmania on the 'Trade Wind'. Hannah was a general servant and aged 42 when migrating.

A tragedy became the family on the voyage to Tasmania. Emma, born about 1849 in Suffolk died at sea on 17 January 1858, aged eight.

William died at 340 York Street West, Cataract Hill, Launceston on 27 June 1897, aged 82 with senility. The death notice recorded he had been a consistent member of the Memorial Church for 14 years. Hannah died on 25 March 1876, aged 63 years, at Kings Meadows, Launceston, with inflammation of the lungs.

For further information contact [bettypilgrim@hotmail.com](mailto:bettypilgrim@hotmail.com).