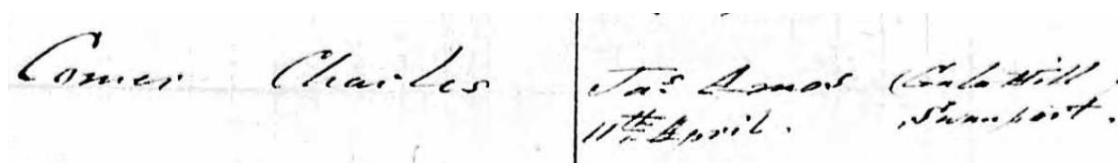


Charles COMER (1834-1909) Incorrectly transcribed as 'Conner'.

Charles Comer was aged 23 (born about 1834), single, literate and a labourer from Norfolk when migrating to Tasmania in 1858 on the 'Trade Wind'. He was sponsored by James Amos (1808-1864) of Gala Mill and discharged from the Quarantine Station at Impression Bay to Amos of Gala Hill, Swan Port on 11 April 1858.

Charles was the son of John Comer (1808-1880) and Esther nee Dennis (1805-1894). He was born about 1835 in Cawston, Norfolk. In 1851 the family lived at Eastgate, Cawston and John and Charles were agricultural labourers.

Charles' sponsor, James Amos, was one of the early pioneers in the East Coast of Tasmania. He arrived in Tasmania in 1821, having together with his parents, brothers and several other relatives, emigrated with Mr George Meredith.



The image shows a handwritten signature 'Comer Charles' on the left. To its right, separated by a vertical line, is a note in cursive: 'Jas Amos (Gala Hill) 11th April. Swanport.'

After arriving in Tasmania Charles, aged 30, a farm servant, married Ann McDonald, aged 32, a widow, on 15 August 1864. Ann had previously been married; it is possible her late husband was Donald McDonald who died, aged 29, on 17 May 1861 in Launceston. Charles and Ann were married in the house of Thomas Docking, Frederick Street, Launceston. The witnesses were Stephen Woolnough and Lydia Docking. Lydia and Stephen married in Wellington Street, Launceston on 23 May 1867. Lydia's brother, Robert Thomas Docking was a migrant on the 'Trade Wind'. Lydia's parents, Thomas (1812-1889) and Ann nee Simpson (1809-1890) were migrants to Tasmania. They departed Liverpool on 28 March 1861 on 'Queen of the Mersey' to Melbourne and then per 'Royal Shepherd' to Launceston arriving on 4 July 1861. They lived at Old Cataract Hill (Hillside Crescent). Thomas was the caretaker of the Primitive Methodist Church in Frederick Street. The Dennis family were also migrants on the 'Trade Wind' but it is uncertain whether there is a connection with Charles' mother.

| 1864 MARRIAGES in the District of Launceston | | | | | | | | |
|--|--------------------------|-------------------------------|----------|------------|--|---|------------------|--|
| Number. | 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. |
| 13 | August 15 1864 | Charles Comer Ann McDonald | 30 32 | Launceston | Charles Comer Bachelor Ann McDonald Widow | John Docking | Aug 15 1864 | John Docking |
| Married in the presence of the Rev. Stephen Woolnough, Minister of the Primitive Methodist Church, Launceston, according to the Rites and Ceremonies of the Primitive Methodist Church by License of the Bishop of Tasmania. This Marriage was solemnized between us Charles Comer & Ann McDonald both of Launceston. In the presence of Stephen Woolnough & Lydia Docking. John Docking Minister. | | | | | | | | |

Charles and Ann moved to Portarlington in Victoria after their marriage. Charles was a well-known poultry farmer there. Stephen and Lydia also moved to Portarlington. Stephen Woolnough of Steven Street, Portarlington, Gentleman, was appointed the Executor of Charles' Will.

Charles died at Portarlington, aged 75 on 25 July 1909. The cause of death was fatty degeneration of the heart. Charles bequeathed all his real and personal estate to his wife, Annie, and if deceased to Maria Morgan of Portarlington and his two sisters, Elizabeth Oakley and Sarah Ann Ready, both of New Road, Acle, Norfolk, England.