

## Maria DENNIS (1842-1917)



Maria was aged 14, a nursemaid from Eriswell, Suffolk when migrating to Tasmania in 1858 on the 'Trade Wind'. She was accompanied by her parents: James (1812-1888) and Frances nee Spinks (1811-1868) and four siblings: Charles (1836-1910), Thomas (1840-?), Alfred (1845-1927) and Benjamin (1848-1927). They came from Eriswell in West Suffolk, England. Eriswell is a small village set in the heart of a farming community, located 14 miles from Bury St Edmunds. Eriswell has a rich history; about forty scattered archaeological finds have been made there, including Bronze Age battle axes, palstaves, and rapiers.

In the 1841 and 1851 England Census the Dennis family were living at Rake Heath Farm Cottages in Eriswell.

The Dennis family were discharged from the Quarantine Station at Impression Bay to their sponsor, Henry Howe of Launceston, on 7 May 1858. Henry Howe (1803-1878) was a well-known and much respected auctioneer in Launceston. He was initially in partnership with Mr W T Bell and subsequently by himself. Due to ill health, he relinquished the business and moved to Victoria.

Maria was born on 22 January 1842 in Eriswell, Suffolk. She was incorrectly transcribed on some 'Trade Wind' records, and shown as 'Moses'.

Maria married another passenger who also travelled on the 'Trade Wind', Henry Bean, on 20 September 1861 in the Lymington school room in the Evandale district. Maria and Henry had nine children, four of whom predeceased Maria. A son, Archibald Louis (Archie) served in WW1 in France and was wounded in action with a gun short wound to the right thigh. He moved to Victoria after his return.

Maria and Henry lived in the Longford district since their marriage and remained there until their death. Maria died on 27 July 1917, aged 74; and Henry died on 5 December 1903, aged 69.

A funeral report in the Launceston 'Examiner' on Tuesday 31 July 1917 gives an account of the funeral of the late Mrs Henry Bean of Longford which took place at the Methodist Cemetery on Monday 30 July. Chief mourners were Albert Bean (son), Mr Dennis of Victoria (brother) [either Benjamin or Alfred] and Messrs Arthur Boon and Charles Ayers (sons-in-law). The deceased lady was the daughter of the late James Dennis of Perth. Over 50 years ago [mid 1860s] she and her husband and infant son came to reside in Longford and she remained there until her death. For many months she suffered intensely. Her husband, two sons (J and C Bean) and one daughter (Mrs Charles Ayers of Launceston) predeceased her some years ago. Remaining are three daughters: Mesdames A Boon and Robert Ayton of Victoria and Miss Bean; two sons: Private Archie Bean who is serving with the AIF in France and was recently wounded; and Albert Bean.

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