

William GARBETT(S) (1831- 1891?)

William was aged 26, single, not able to read nor write, a collier from Staffordshire. William was sponsored by John Foster of Hobart Town. [William was recorded as being aged 25 on Destination List.] William was discharged from the Quarantine Station at Impression Bay on his own account to New Town on 29 March 1858.

It is likely William was the son of John and Mary Garbett. In the 1841 England Census for Gorsty Bank, Kingswinford, Stourbridge, Staffordshire John Garbett was aged 50 and a coal miner. His wife, Mary, was aged 45. William was aged 11. Other siblings were Joseph (1826), Elizabeth (1821), John (1826 – twin of Emma), Emma (1826 – twin of John), Isabella (1828), Margaret (1833), Eliza (1838) and Charles (1840).



William's sponsor, John Foster (1792-1875), had lived in Tasmania for 52 years prior to his death in 1875. He owned large properties in both Tasmania and Victoria. He also owned the Douglas River Coal Company near Swansea in Tasmania. As a collier, it is probable William worked for John Foster at this mine.

A William Garbett was a resident in Mangana in 1866. Mangana is situated in the coal mining district of the Fingal Valley. This William Garbett married Anne Moore on 17 December 1866 in the Fingal district.

No further information could be found for William in Tasmania. It is likely after his marriage he moved to Newcastle, another coal mining district. There are numerous reports of a William Garbett, a miner, being charged with assaulting and beating his wife, Annie. However, in most instances the cases were withdrawn by his wife. He was also charged with wife desertion. On the warrant for his arrest he was described as being aged about 53 years (this would fit – about 1830), 5 feet 5 inches high, stout build, fair complexion, blue eyes, scar over one, clean shaved except for beard, bald on top of head. He was supposed to be working on the railway extension near Sydney or in the mines at Newcastle. William as arrested in 1884 for deserting his wife at Glen Innes.

The *Newcastle Morning Herald and Miners' Advocate* on Monday 19 January 1885 (p2) reported on a William Garbett, a Wallsend miner, being admitted to hospital suffering from broken ribs and injuries to his leg. He wandered on to the Great Northern Railway line, near Wickham, and in the darkness fell through a skeleton bridge behind the Bellevue Hotel, a depth of over twenty feet, on to a pile of large stones.

A William Garbett died in 1891 in Newtown, New South Wales. Mother's name was recorded as Minnie. Perhaps the same William?