Robert Hamstead (1820-1904)
Susan Hamstead nee Clarke (1822-1871)

'Trade Wind' shipping records show the name as Hampsted, however, in records in Australia after arrival the name is spelt consistently as Hamstead. Records in England mostly record the name as Hamstead although there are some variations.

Robert was aged 37 when departing England, married, could read, a hop grower and labourer. Robert was the son of Henry [Harvey] Hamstead (1779-1848), born at Combsford, near Stowmarket, Suffolk.

The Hamstead family [a researcher on *ancestry.com* has changed the name to Hempstead] in the 1851 England Census for Ford, Combs, Stow, Suffolk records the family as follows:

Robert Hamstead, 32, 1819, born Onehouse, Suffolk, England, farm labourer
Susannah, 29, abt 1822, born Hatfield, Hertfordshire
Elizabeth, 9, abt 1842 born Combs, Suffolk
Susanah, 7, abt 1844, born Combs, Suffolk
Alicia, 4, abt 1847, born Combs, Suffolk [Utica]
Robert, 2, abt 1849, born Combs, Suffolk
Mary Burrows, 65, abt 1786, Lodger, born Combs, Suffolk

Robert married Susannah Clarke on 25 January 1842 in Suffolk. Susannah was born about 1822 in Hatfield, Hertfordshire. Her mother was Elizabeth and her father was not named on the birth registration.

Robert and Susannah migrated on the 'Trade Wind' in 1858 along with five children who were all born in Combs, Suffolk: Elizabeth, 10; Alicia [Utica], 11; Robert, 9; Louisa, 7 and Samuel, 4. Two more children were born after their arrival with both passing away in infancy: Henry John (1859-1860); and William (1861-1864). Daughter, Susanna, who was born in 1844, passed away in 1852 before the family departed for Tasmania.

The family were sponsored by William Stammers Button, Esq. (1795-1876) of Launceston. They were discharged from the Quarantine Station at Impression Bay on the morning coach to Mr Button on 23 March 1858. William Button sponsored 24 people from the 'Trade Wind' including the Bean family. William was born in Suffolk, firstly coming to Tasmania in 1833 in the ship 'Forth', bound for Circular Head and Launceston. He was accompanied by his brother, Thomas Button, and half-brother, JS Waddell, and other members of his family. Thomas Button and JS Waddell also sponsored other 'Trade Wind' immigrants. After arriving in Tasmania William set up his residence at Norfolk Plains and later moved to Launceston for business purposes. He was highly respected in Tasmania and became well known as a chief

member of the Anti-Transportation League. When Launceston was declared a municipality, he was elected a member of the first Council and its first Mayor on 1 January 1853.

The Hamstead family moved to Victoria in about 1860. No public records could be found for Susannah after their arrived in Victoria. Researchers of this family on *ancestry.com* show she died in January 1871 in Ipswich, Suffolk in England. *Findmypast* records Susanna Hamstead, born 1822, aged 49, died 1871 and buried 15 Jan 1871 at Whitton, St Mary Anglican Church, Ipswich District, Suffolk.

It is surmised Susanna was ill and some of the family returned to England with her including her husband, daughters Elizabeth and Louisa and son Samuel. A record of Utica and Robert Jun. was not found in England after migrating to Tasmania although it is possible they returned to England as well. From records on *ancestry.com* Elizabeth and Louisa remained in England after their mother's death. In the 1871 England Census for Stowmarket, Suffolk, Samuel, aged 16, was a visitor in the home of Henry and Emily Bird. A Samuel Hamstead, aged 15, arrived Victoria in June 1872 per 'Queen of Nations'. There is a record of a Robert Hamstead, aged 53, arriving in Victoria in August 1871 on the 'Newcastle' from England.

Robert died on 26 April 1904, aged 91 years, at North Fitzroy. The death notice in *The Age* on Wednesday 27 April 1904 announced he was the father of Robert Hamstead of Waranga Basin, Mrs Robottom [Utica] of Fitzroy and Samuel Hamstead (1854-1932) of Holden Street, North Fitzroy. Robert was buried in the Melbourne General Cemetery.