

Robert HAMSTEAD Jun. (1848-1915)

Robert was aged nine and could read when migrating to Tasmania on the 'Trade Wind' in 1858. He was baptised on 1 April 1849 in Combs, Suffolk. Robert's parents were Robert Sen. (1820-1904) and Susannah nee Clarke (1822-1871). His mother passed away in Ipswich, Suffolk in January 1871.

The Hamstead 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. Robert was a labourer in Victoria and it is believed he did not marry. In his father's death notice in April 1904 it was noted Robert Jun. was from Waranga Basin, near Rushworth. Robert died on 10 August 1915, aged 65, at the Melbourne Benevolent Asylum. He was buried at the Cheltenham Pioneer Cemetery in Bayside City, Victoria.