

## Thomas HILL (1832-?)

Thomas was aged 27, single, a collier from Staffordshire with no education when migrating to Tasmania on the 'Trade Wind' in 1858. He was sponsored by John Foster of Hobart Town. John Foster owned the Douglas River Coal Company and this was probably where Thomas commenced work as a collier. The Douglas River Coal Company was formed to mine on a lease north of Bicheno in May 1849. Convicts were brought in to build a tramway to transport coal from the pits to the purpose built granite wharf, tipping table and chute at the Gulch in Bicheno. During this time there were a number of escapes, one taking place on 21 May 1852, when five armed convicts seized the HMAS 'Gratitude', anchored in Waubs Bay and made off with her. A reward of £2 a head was offered. Despite extensive searches the boat was never recovered and only two convicts were recaptured. Thirty-nine skilled colliers and their families were sourced from the coal districts of the United Kingdom. Some of the men absconded on arrival. The same year of Thomas' arrival in Tasmania the company folded. John Foster sponsored at least ten colliers from the Staffordshire area, several originated from Briely Hill, Kingswinford. It is possible Thomas also came from Kingswinford.

Thomas may have married Isabella Johnston in the Wesleyan Centenary Church, Hobart Town on 15 April 1868. Thomas was aged 35 (born about 1832), a bachelor, and Isabella was aged 34 (1834), a widow.

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.
352	15 <sup>th</sup> April 1868 Wesleyan Centenary Church Hobart Town	Thomas Hill Isabella Johnston	36 34	Labourer	Thomas Hill Bachelor Isabella Johnston Widow	Wm L. Gossie	April 15 <sup>th</sup> 1868	Wm L. Gossie
<p>Married in the Centenary Church Hobart Town, according to the Rites and Ceremonies of the Wesleyan Church by virtue of Act 33 Victoria No. 11 by me</p> <p>This Marriage was solemnized between us } Thomas Hill Isabella Johnston</p> <p>{ In the Presence of us } Rpt. Gault Gray Elizabeth Whitehead</p> <p>Wm L. Gossie Minister.</p>								

Isabella may have previously been married to William Johnston who died on 1 November 1863 at Battery Point. He was aged 48, born about 1815 in Denmark. He was the Superintendent of the Iron Pot Light house and the cause of death was pneumonia. A William Johnston of Hill Street, Lansdowne Crescent, Hobart, died aged 51 (1812) after a long and painful illness. The marriage for the latter with Isabella Buchanan, aged 30, who was a widow and William, aged 40, a stone mason. They married at St George's Church.

No further information could be found for neither Thomas nor Isabella Hill.