

Walter KEMP (1839-1884?)

Walter was aged 18, single, belonged to the Church of England faith, was illiterate and a ploughman from Suffolk when migrating to Tasmania on the 'Trade Wind' in 1858. Walter was sponsored by Charles Butler of Hobart Town and he was discharged from the Quarantine Station at Impression Bay on 15 April 1858 to Mr Butler. Charles Butler is regarded as the Father of the Tasmanian bar and previously head of the old-established firm of Butler, McIntyre and Butler. Charles was admitted to the Bar on 4 December 1843 after serving an apprenticeship with Robert Pitcairn, the leading solicitor in Hobart at the time. Butler started his own practice but subsequently gave this up to follow agricultural pursuits. He later returned to the legal profession.

It is possible Walter was born in Rickinghall in Suffolk in 1839 to James (1812-1847) and Eliza nee Morley (1817-1895). James died when Walter was aged about 8 years old. In the 1851 England census Walter, his mother and siblings were living with his Morley grandparents at Rickinghall Inferior, Stow in Suffolk.

A Walter Kemp was born about September 1839 at Bridgham, Norfolk rather than Suffolk as per the 'Trade Wind' records. His parents were Samuel Kemp (1796-? – game keeper) and Ann nee Jennings (1797-1862). Another family, William and Eliza Humphrey, were recorded as coming from Suffolk on the 'Trade Wind' records but their native place was Bridgham, Norfolk. The agent recruiting the labourers often selected people from the same area to migrate and it is possible the Humphrey family and Walter Kemp were known to each other. William and Eliza Humphrey nor William Kemp, according to public records, remained in Tasmania. It is possible they all returned to England. A Walter Kemp, born about 1839, died in 1884 at Bridgham.