

## Malvina McPHERSON (1840-1912)



Malvina was aged 18, single, dissenter with no education and a housemaid when migrating to Tasmania on the 'Trade Wind' in 1858. She was sponsored by Henry Cook of Hobart Town and discharged to Mr Cook, a clothier of 45 Elizabeth Street, Hobart, on the evening of 8 April 1858.

*Henry Cook*

Malvina was born on 9 May 1840 at Ipswich in Suffolk. Her parents were Donald (1803-1852, born Inverness Shire, Scotland, an auctioneer) and Mary nee Campbell (1806-1880, born Ipswich, Suffolk) McPherson. Malvina's mother travelled to Victoria after her husband's death and died in Horsham, Victoria on 30 October 1880.

Malvina married another passenger, Benjamin Baker, from the 'Trade Wind' on 10 March 1861 in Ballarat, Victoria. Benjamin was a collier from Staffordshire and had joined the gold rush in Victoria. Benjamin and Malvina had two children in Ballarat, the first born died in infancy. It is not known what happened to Benjamin after his second child, Charles, was born in 1862. It is possible he was deceased although no records could be found to verify.

Malvina met another gold miner at Ballarat, William Growcott, and went to New Zealand with him sometime between 1865 and 1867, settling just outside of Ross on the West Coast of the South Island. Like Benjamin Baker, William also came from Staffordshire. William and Malvina did not marry as William had a legal wife living in England, who regarded herself as a widow in the 1881 England census. William had married in 1839 to Ann Maria Colbourne; they had five children. In 1854 William and his oldest son, Charles, sailed aboard the 'Arabian' to Australia, arriving in November the same year, to make their fortunes in the goldfields. In 1856 Charles was a miner at Sailor's Gully, North Grant, East Ballarat. Charles married Mary Ann Reakes in Ballarat on 18 June 1865 and died in Ballarat at the age of 68 in 1908.

William Growcott and Malvina had a further nine children, two were born in Victoria, Australia and the remaining seven in New Zealand. All the children remained in New Zealand with the exception of George William (1873-1933) who was a miner at the Golden Horseshoe Mine at Kalgoorlie in Western Australia. Malvina and Benjamin's son (Charles 1862-1935) also lived in New Zealand and was known as Growcott rather than his birth name of Baker.



Malvina died on 23 September 1912 at Hokitka, Westland, New Zealand aged 72. At the time of her death she was blind in one eye. William predeceased her by seven years. He died on 14 July 1905 at Rimu in New Zealand at the age of 89.