

Thomas PRICE (1837-?)

Thomas was aged 20, single, illiterate, a collier from Staffordshire when migrating to Tasmania on the 'Trade Wind' in 1858. He belonged to the Methodist Christian faith. Thomas was discharged from the Quarantine Station, Impression Bay on his own account on 29 March 1858.

Thomas was sponsored by John Foster (1792-1875) of Hobart Town. John arrived in Tasmania in 1823 on the ship 'Berwick' from England. Upon his arrival John established himself at Fosterville near Campbell Town undertaking agricultural and grazing pursuits. Among other large properties he owned in Tasmania and Victoria he also owned the Douglas River Coal Company. It was possible Thomas worked for him as a collier in this mine, situated north of Bicheno. Convicts were brought in to build a tramway to transport coal from the pits to build a granite wharf, tipping table and chute at the Gulch in Bicheno. The same year of Thomas' arrival in Tasmania the company folded.

It is probable Thomas was the son of Adam and Mary Price. In the 1841 England Census for Rock Hill Street, Kingswinford, Staffordshire, Adam was aged 25 and a miner. In the 1851 England Census the family were living at Level Road, Kingswinford, Stourbridge Union, Staffordshire. Adam was now aged 32 and a coal miner. Thomas was aged 14, born about 1837 at Kingswinford. In the 1851 England Census for Kingswinford, Staffordshire, Thomas Price, aged 13, a coal miner was in the home of Richard and Mary Jolly. Richard was a coal miner.

It is not known what happened to Thomas once arriving in Tasmania. A notice in the 'Cornwall Chronicle' on Saturday 24 November 1860 announced the arrival of a son on 18 November to Mrs Thomas Price. Thomas may have travelled to the Newcastle region of New South Wales to continue his work as a collier. There were a number in the Newcastle region by the name of Thomas Price. Several other colliers who arrived on the 'Trade Wind' relocated to this district.