

John RICE (1826-1859) and Eliza nee LEEKS (1826-?)

John was aged 35 when migrating to Tasmania in 1858 on the 'Trade Wind'. John was accompanied by his wife Eliza nee Leeks (1825-?) and four children: Thomas James (1845-1922), Frederick Charles (1850-1927), William Joseph (1850-1936) and Sarah Ann (1856-1942). The family were incorrectly recorded by the name of 'Rise'.

John was a Methodist, illiterate, a labourer and gardener from Suffolk at the time of migrating. Eliza was aged 33, could read, and a laundress from Suffolk. Both were sponsored by Henry Hopkins of Hobart Town and discharged to him during the evening of 9 April 1858. Henry Hopkins established Tasmania's wool trade by making exports profitable. He owned two large homesteads, 'Westella' and 'Summerhome'. Both had large gardens and in need of a gardener. 'Summerhome' remains in the ownership of Henry's descendants where they have kept the original furniture, including the original wallpaper. 'Summerhome' was formerly Robert Giblin's New Town Academy for boys although information provided by the Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery records the home as being built in the 1840s by Henry Hopkins as his summer retreat.



Westella



Summerhome

John was probably suffering with TB upon his arrival as he died, aged 34, the following year at New Town on 28 June 1859 with 'consumption'.

John was the son of Henry (1787-1863) and Charlotte nee Fincham (1791-1857). Henry married Eliza Leeks, the daughter of William (1793-1869) and Sarah nee Hutson (1791-1864), on 11 July 1846 at Mildenhall, Suffolk in England. They had seven children. A son, Alfred, who was born about 1847 in Mildenhall died there at the age of 5. Another son by the same name, Alfred, was born in the Quarantine Station at Impression Bay, Tasmania on 12 March 1858. He only lived for a month. Their last-born son, John Henry, was born in Hobart, just two months before his father, John, Sen. died.

Eliza remarried Harry (Henry) Mundy on 23 September 1861 at St John's Church in New Town, Tasmania. He was aged 47, a widower and gardener. It is possible Henry was a gardener, who also worked for Henry Hopkins.

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.
469 5/21	St Peter's Newtown September 23 rd 1861	Henry Mundy & Eliza Rice	47	Gentleman	Henry Mundy widower Eliza Rice his wife widow	J. B. Seaman	September 23 rd 1861	

Married in the *St Peter's Church* according to the Rites and Ceremonies of the United Church of England & Ireland by *J. B. Seaman*
 This Marriage was solemnized between us } *Henry Mundy*
Eliza Rice his wife { *In the Presence of us* } *Henry Miffens his wife*
Marion Cook *Official Minister.*

It is doubtful this marriage survived, although no divorce records could be found on the public records. Henry firstly advertised in January 1863 he would not be responsible for any debts in his name, by his wife, Eliza Mundy, as she had left her home without any just cause or provocation. A caution notice was repeated in January 1864 with much the same information. No further record could be found for Eliza.