

## Joseph ROBERTS (1837-1905)

Joseph was aged 20, single and belonged to the Church of England faith, and was from Staffordshire, when migrating to Tasmania in 1858 on the 'Trade Wind'. He was a collier, sponsored by J L Stewart of Hobart Town. Joseph was discharged from the Quarantine Station, Impression Bay to New Town on 29 March 1858.

The 1841 England Census for Broad Lane, Skidmores Row, Sedgley, Wolverhampton, Staffordshire records a Joseph, aged 4 (1837) being the son of Thomas Roberts, 35 (born 1806), a coal miner and Esther, aged 47 (born 1794). Siblings were William (14) and John (9).

A Joseph Roberts, aged 24 (1838), miner, married Eliza Goldsmith (1843-1882), 19, a servant on 28 April 1862 in Hobart at St Joseph's Church. Witnesses were Charles Brunell and Bridget Saunders. *Ancestry.com* family records show this Joseph as being the son of William Roberts, an ex-convict, although the age does not match. It is more likely Joseph who married Eliza Goldsmith was the 'Trade Wind' immigrant. Eliza was the daughter of John Goldsmith (1808-1895) and Mary Ann nee Donovan (1808-1867). Both were convicts and transported to VDL. Of the ten children born to Joseph and Eliza their birth registrations were: 2 in Hobart, 1 in Fingal, 1 in Longford, 2 in Launceston and the last 4 in Oatlands.

A daughter of Joseph Roberts and Eliza nee Goldsmith, Maria Roberts (1870-1932) married the son of a 'Trade Wind' passenger, Eli Round. Percy Eli Round (1873-1935) married Maria Roberts (1870-1932) in Oatlands, Tasmania on 15 May 1895.

In September 1864 Joseph was a witness in a court case. He deposed he was a miner and formerly worked for Samuel Harris at the Triumph mines. He was now working with Mr Noble. Another witness was Thomas Wideley (sic, Wadeley), a collier at the Triumph Mines, who was a passenger on the 'Trade Wind'.<sup>1</sup>

Two months later, in December 1864 Joseph had an accident at the Rosetta Coal Mines in New Town. Joseph was the first to go down the coal shaft, the rope attached to the drum had been loosened, and Joseph went down to the bottom, a distance of 60 feet, and narrowly escaped a shocking death.<sup>2</sup>

It is possible the Joseph Roberts, who in 1868 was working at the Union Quartz Crushing Company at Mangana, is the same Joseph Roberts.<sup>3</sup> A child (John Phillip 1867-1940) was born in the Fingal district in 1867.

According to different personal announcements in the print media Joseph resided at Andover, a small Tasmanian rural location in the Southern Midlands, approximately 62 kms from Hobart.

Memorian notices in the *Mercury* on Thursday 6 June 1907 from sons and daughters remembered their father, Joseph Roberts of Andover, who died 6 June 1905 at Birmingham, England, in his 68<sup>th</sup> year. His age matches the 'Trade Wind' Joseph Roberts. His wife, Eliza, died in the Oatlands district on 26 May 1882 and was buried in the Oatlands Catholic Church Cemetery. Eliza died a month after son Charles (1882-1941) was born.

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<sup>1</sup> The Hobart *Mercury*, Thursday 15 September 1864, p2.

<sup>2</sup> *Hobart Town Advertiser*, Saturday 3 December 1864, p1.

<sup>3</sup> Launceston *Examiner*, Thursday 16 July 1868, p3.