

Elizabeth RUFFLES (1834-1919)

Elizabeth was aged 21, single, literate, a Baptist, and a housemaid from Suffolk when migrating to Tasmania on the 'Trade Wind' in 1858. She was sponsored by John Lucas, Snr., (1797-1883) of Hobart Town. Elizabeth was discharged from the Quarantine Station at Impression Bay per river craft during the evening of 7 May 1858 to John Lucas.

John Lucas, was a very early settler in Tasmania. He was the son of Thomas (1759-1815), a Marine First Fleeter, arriving on the HMS 'Scarborough' and his mother, Ann nee Howard (1758-1832) who was a convict on the Second Fleet. The Lucas family arrived in Tasmania from Norfolk Island in 1808 where they settled at Brown's River on the grant of land secured along the banks of the stream, including the site on which the village of Kingston now stands.

Elizabeth was baptised at the Particular Baptist Church, in Bardwell, Suffolk on 22 April 1834. Her parents were William Ruffles (1795-1893) and his second wife, Lydia Kent (1799-1886).

Elizabeth married another passenger on the 'Trade Wind', Thomas Wadeley (1830-1893), on 10 December 1860 at Holy Trinity Church, Hobart. They had ten children. After Thomas' death on 15 May 1893 in Hobart, Elizabeth moved to New South Wales where several of her children were living. Elizabeth's half sister, Eliza (1823-1904), was also living in New South Wales. Eliza and Elizabeth had the same father and Eliza was the daughter of his first wife, Ann nee Crosby (1800-1826). Eliza married William Thomas Prigg (1814-1876). They were married on 29 July 1843 in Bardwell, Suffolk and arrived per the 'John and Lucy' as assisted immigrants to NSW on 6 May 1857. William was aged 42 and Eliza, aged 32. They were accompanied by their four children: Isabella, 12; Ebenezer, 9; Edith, 7; and Jessie, 4. Another four children were born after their arrival in Australia.

Elizabeth died on 6 March 1919 at Coogee, NSW, aged 84.

For further information contact bettypilgrim@hotmail.com.