

Thomas William RULE (1827-1904) and Mary nee NASH (1833-1907)

Thomas was aged 29, literate, a gardener, from Suffolk when migrating to Tasmania on the 'Trade Wind' in 1858. He was accompanied by his wife Mary (1833-1907) and four children. They were struck off rations at the Quarantine Station, Impression Bay on 17 May 1858. William Rout of Hobart Town was the sponsor for the family. Rout was an ironmonger; appointed to the Board of Management for the Queen's Orphan Schools in 1861; a member of the Hobart Town City Mission; and was one of the first trustees of the Hobart Saving Bank. Rout's wife was the matron on the convict ship for females 'Anson', and was afterwards employed by the Government as a matron of an asylum for women.

Thomas was born on 17 December 1827 and baptised at Stratford St Marys, Suffolk on 13 January 1828. His parents were William (1787-1852) and Mary Ann nee Polley (1792-1826). Mary was born on 17 February 1833 at Bromley, Middlesex. Thomas and Mary were married on 15 July 1849 at Saint Dunstan and All Saints, Stepney in Middlesex, England. They had four children before embarking on their journey to Tasmania. A further nine children were born after their arrival.

Eldest son, Arthur William (1854-1876) met his death by an accident at Mr Dean's bakery in St John's Street, Launceston. Another son, Edward (1855-1859), died in Hobart in December 1859, aged three. Some of the children remained in Tasmania and others in Victoria and New South Wales.

Thomas died at 6 Cumberland Street, Launceston on 21 June 1904, aged 77. Mary died three years later, at the same address, aged 74 on 29 July 1907.

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