William WATKINSON (1826-1896)

William was single, could not read nor write, a labourer from Suffolk when migrating to Tasmania on the 'Trade Wind' in 1858. William was shown as aged 16 (born about 1842) on the 'Trade Wind's' descriptive list, however, on the destination list it records his age as being 27 (about 1831). The latter is closer, although he would have been about 32 years of age.

William was born on 25 March 1826 in Glemsford, Suffolk, England. His parents were William (1794-1840) and Charlotte nee Hills (1794-1836). After his parents' death William and his siblings lived with his Uncle and Aunt, Peter and Hannah Daniels at Glemsford in Suffolk.

William was sponsored by G Watson of Hobart Town. He was discharged from the Quarantine Station, Impression Bay during the evening of 15 April 1858 to Mr Crear of Clyne Vale. Captain James Crear, a Master of the Royal Navy, was granted 700 acres when he came to VDL as master of the ship 'Triton' from Leith in 1824. He took the property name from his wife's maiden name, Clyne. A further grant in 1829 brought the total acreage to 2560. Clyne Vale is located at Epping Forest in the Campbell Town district.

William married another passenger from the 'Trade Wind', Sarah Ann Bond (1840-1934). They married at Clynevale House on 11 February 1859. William would have been aged about 33 years and Sarah about aged 19. They had at least eight children, most of whom moved to New South Wales. William and Sarah also moved to New South Wales where William and at least two of his sons were wood and coal merchants.

William died at the age of 76 at his residence 73 Wyndham Street, Alexandria, NSW, on 1 September 1896. According to his age recorded at death William would have been inaccurately shown as being born in 1820. Sarah died 38 years later, on 17 October 1934, aged 94, at Lindfield, New South Wales. Both were buried at Rookwood Cemetery in Sydney. [See notes for Sarah Anne Bond]