

## David WHITTAKER (1825-1896)

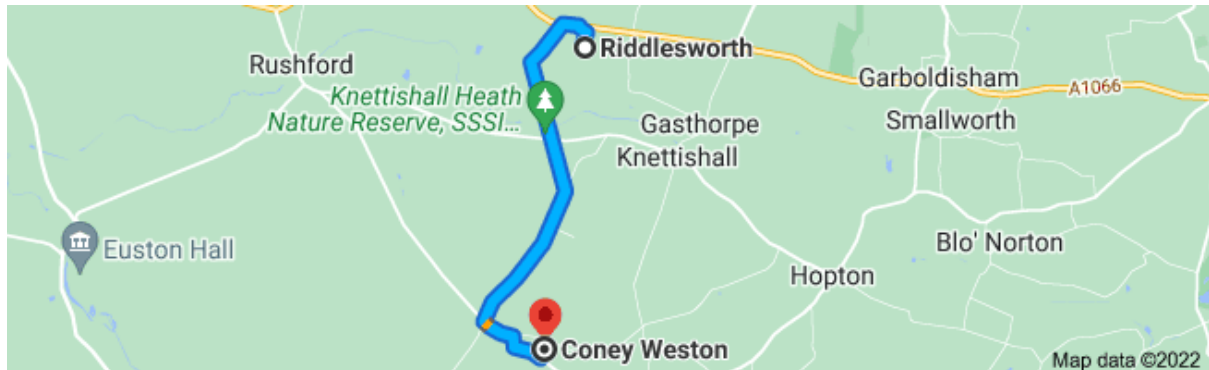
David was aged 33, a Baptist, literate, a brickmaker from Suffolk when migrating to Tasmania on the 'Trade Wind' in 1858.

David was baptised on 25 January 1825 at Coney Weston in Suffolk. His parents were Briggs Whitaker (1783-1861) and Elizabeth nee Smith (1781-1857).

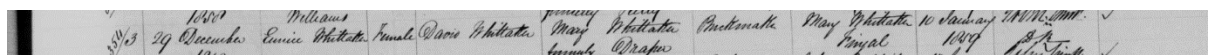
David was shown as being single on the 'Trade Wind' records although he was a widower. His wife, Ellen nee Wright (1827-1853) died at the age of 26. David travelled on the same ticket with his son, William, who was eight years of age.

David was sponsored by John Hayes of Hobart Town. John was believed to be the first white man born in Tasmania, born in 1805 at Risdon. His father was Thomas Hayes, one of the 12 settlers who accompanied Colonel Collins' expedition in 1803. David was discharged from the Quarantine Station at Impression Bay on 11 April 1858 to John Hayes.

David remarried Mary Draper who also migrated on the 'Trade Wind'. Mary was from Riddlesworth which is only about 3½ miles away from Coney Weston. It is likely they knew each other before embarking on the journey to Tasmania. David and Mary married at St David's Cathedral in Hobart while they were still in the Quarantine Station on 9 April 1858. Mary was sponsored by James Grant of Hobart Town and she was discharged from the Quarantine Station at Impression Bay to Grant per morning coach on 12 April 1858 – a day after her new husband was discharged.



It has not been possible to find from public records how the newly married couple met up after going separate ways initially. Their first born child, Eunice, was born on 29 December 1858 in Fingal.



David and Mary resided in different locations in the Fingal Valley with six children being born in Fingal, Cullenswood, St Marys and Four Mile Creek between 1858 and 1865. The second born child, a male, lived for three days. David and Mary and their five living children remained in Tasmania. Mary had travelled also with her daughter, Mary Ann (1847-1948) from a previous relationship. She was aged ten and was on the same ticket as her mother. [See Mary and Mary Ann Draper entry for further details.]

In 1870 David, Mary and family were living at Diana's Basin near St Helen's on the East Coast. David was in the employ of Francis Groom, Esq. of Cullenswood as a stock keeper. A news report in the Launceston *Examiner* on Saturday 22 January 1870 (p2) told the story of their son, Walter, who had been lost in the bush for two days and nights, exposed to heavy rains. After an extensive search he was found safe and well.

David died on 24 September 1896 at St Helens, aged 72. Mary passed away on 19 November 1922, aged 88, also at St Helens.