

## **William WOOD (1811-1879)**

William was aged 45, a Quaker, literate, a draper from Hertfordshire when migrating to Tasmania on the 'Trade Wind' in 1858. William was born on 22 February 1811 at Lewes in Sussex. His parents were John (1775-1825) and Sarah nee Daynes (aka Daines, 1781-1838). William was sponsored by GW Walker of Hobart Town. Walker was a well-known Quaker in Tasmania.

William married Lydia nee Brown (1812-1879) in October 1840 in Hertfordshire, England. They sailed with their four children, the oldest child, Anna, died at sea on the 'Trade Wind', aged 13.

Mr Loch, the Immigration Agent reported William Wood and his wife acted as teachers on the 'Trade Wind' for about six weeks having consented to do so at Mr Drake's request. Mr and Mrs Wood supplied some stationery at the commencement of the journey. The school was discontinued for a variety of reasons including it being held in the small single women's compartment, causing much inconvenience especially to those who were in bad health.

The Rev. Benjamin Drake made a statement saying it was evident to all that Mr Wood's servant would soon become the mother of an illegitimate child and many strange things were said about the paternity of the child. From this time the school was discontinued and Mr Wood was never requested to resume. Mrs Drake continued assisting in the education of the girls by collecting the girls and in fine weather on the poop taught them needlework, reading, spelling and occasionally catechised them.

Captain Johnston stated he did not know why the school was stopped and that Mr Drake wanted Mr and Mrs Wood to go on again with the school but they declined. One of the passengers in the single women's apartment, Malvina McPherson, had fits and this disturbed the school. The Immigration Agent sought approval for the payment of £5 to be made to Mr and Mrs Wood for the stationery they provided.

The Surgeon complained Mr Wood was the instigator of all evil on board the ship. The complaints were chiefly made by Wood and he did all in his power to make a breach between passengers and officers. His sneaking, undermining ways took effect with some of the worst characters we had and even tainted some of the better class.

The Immigration Agent reported William Wood who had taken a leading part in the complaints and the assertion of which the Emigrants regarded as their rights, the feeling of the emigrants in his favour being equally visible, various persons having stated their belief that but for his interference they would not have survived the voyage. The passengers presented to Mr Wood at Impression Bay a paper signed by 172 persons of which as it bears upon the subject of the complaints of the passengers. A perusal of the statements given in this report shows Mr Wood was correct in the views he took and has expressed regarding the treatment of the passengers on board and, at the least fully justified in the endeavours to improve their conditions for which they expressed themselves gratified.

After arrival in Tasmania Mr Wood, together with his sons, conducted a drapery business at 99 Liverpool Street in Hobart. A disastrous fire took place on the premises on the night of 20 March 1865, three years after being established. A number of reports were in local Tasmanian newspapers about the Inquiry conducted. The jury returned a verdict to the effect the fire originated in the shop of Wood & Sons, but whether feloniously, wilfully or of malice aforethought, or by accident there was no evidence to shew. The jury added the following rider: The jury are of opinion Messrs Wood & sons are censurable for not having at an earlier stage of the fire made greater efforts to extinguish it.

It was probably after this fire when Wood and his family relocated to South Australia. William died on 2 September 1879 in Glenelg, South Australia, aged 68.