

### **Cotton, Francis (1801-1883)**

Sponsored: Francis Clark (Eldon, Suffolk; groom)  
James Clark (Suffolk, farm bailiff)



Francis Cotton was born in London in 1801 and was educated at Friend's School, Ackworth, and having served an apprenticeship to a builder and contractor in London afterwards engaged in business on his own account. He was a member of the Drapers' Company, and held a certificate of the freedom of the City of London.

Cotton arrived in Tasmania in 1829. He resided in Hobart Town for about six months in Macquarie Street, in a house afterwards known as the 'Royal Oak', opposite the Hutchins School. Having determined to settle in Swanport, Cotton and family left Hobart in the brig 'Leopold'. After settling down at 'Kelvedon' he added to his property an estate north of Swansea. He was probably the first purchaser and exporter of wool in Swanport. After his death he left £19,000 bequest to the Society of Friends. Francis was educated at the Friend's School in Ackworth, England. At Swanport Francis was a grazier (sheep), local government official, protectionist politician, Quaker leader, sheep breeder.

An interesting account of the hardships encountered when first settling in Tasmania is in his Obituary, *Mercury*, Monday 23 April 1883, p3. Picture of Francis Cotton copied from *ancestry.com* (Louisa Reid).

Francis Cotton, landowner, Great Swan Port applied for Immigrant Bounty Tickets on 5 July 1854.

Francis Cotton, Chairman, Road Trust, Swan Port applied for Immigrant Bounty Tickets on 25 October 1854.