

Elliston, William Gore (1798-1872)

Sponsored: Martha Ann Bond (Ixworth, Suffolk; needlewoman)



William Gore Elliston born 18 Oct 1798, Bath, England and died 4 Dec 1872, Hobart, Tasmania. He received a good education, but was brought up to no profession. For some time he assisted his father, Robert William Elliston, the actor, who died in 1831. The father was manager of the Drury Lane Theatre for some time, his son William being connected with him, but a large sum of money was lost, in the speculation. William managed the Lymington Reading Room and when his father became involved in difficulties, consequent on the Drury Lane failure, the reading room was seized to meet the liabilities.

William arrived in Tasmania in 1824. He conducted the Longford Hall Grammar School at Longford for some years after his arrival. Having disposed of the school, he purchased the *Hobart Town Courier* from Dr Ross, who had conducted it for many years. As a consequence of a duel which was fought by Captain Montagu, then Colonial Secretary, and a nephew of Colonel Arthur, Elliston lost all his government printing work. Mr James Barnard was recruited from England to become the Government printer. Elliston continued to retain possession of the paper until 1848, when he disposed of it to the Messrs Best Bros. He then entered into the auctioneering business in Hobart. It was as an auctioneer Elliston applied for Immigrant Bounty tickets. Elliston then went to Bridgewater and settled on a farm there, during which he was appointed visiting magistrate of Brighton. He had previously to this been Mayor of Hobart Town between 1855 and 1856. He was appointed by Sir William Denison to be a member of the Legislative Council in July 1855. (Extracts from Obituary, *Mercury*, Fri 6 Dec 1872, p2)

A diary of Elliston's voyage to Tasmania and afterwards is available at the Tasmanian Archives, Library of Tasmania in the Tasmanian Archives Research File for William Gore Elliston. Picture of William Gore Elliston copied from *ancestry.com* (Kata Varley).

WG Elliston, Auctioneer, Hobart Town, applied for Immigrant Bounty Tickets.