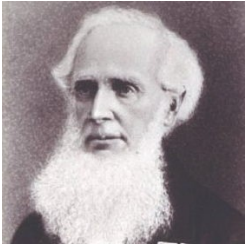


**Fenton, Michael (c1790-1874)**

Sponsored: Sarah Anne Bond (Suffolk, nursemaid)



Michael Fenton was born in Westmeath, Ireland. He entered the 13<sup>th</sup> Light Infantry in 1807 and after gallantly serving in India sold out in October 1828 with a view to settling in Tasmania. Captain Fenton arrived in 1829 and under the Horse Guards' order of June 1826 he received a free grant of 2,560 acres of land from the Crown. In 1832, having introduced, at his own expense, eighteen families from Ireland, he was allowed a remission of £20 for each family in the purchase of land from the Crown. In October 1851 Captain Fenton was elected a member of the Elective Legislative Council for New Norfolk, and Speaker of the Council on 17 July 1855. On 13 September 1856, on the division of the Legislature into two Houses, he was elected member of the House of Assembly for New Norfolk, and first Speaker of the House on 2 December 1856. Fenton received a grant of 1000 acres near Westbury and later a further 500 acres at Green Ponds. In addition, he purchased an estate on the Derwent River about 14 miles from New Norfolk and named it 'Fenton Forest'. Fenton was appointed a government member of the Legislative Council by Sir John Franklin in 1840 having resigned as one of the 'Patriotic Six'. Fenton, as member for New Norfolk, became second speaker of the House of Assembly in 1856 and held the office until the 1861 dissolution, he did not seek re-election retiring from politics at the age of 72. Fenton died at 'Fenton Forest' on 6 November 1874. (Obituary, *The Mercury*, Thu 9 Apr 1874, p2)

Picture of Michael Fenton copied from *ancestry.com* (Robin Fenton).

Michael Fenton, Fenton Forest applied for Bounty Tickets on 26 April and 24 August 1854.