

Hopkins, Henry (1787-1870)

Sponsored: Sophia Carey (Tipperary, Ireland; needlewoman)
Harriet Gladding (Hertfordshire, cook)
Eliza Rice nee Leeks (Suffolk, laundress)
Frederick Rice (Suffolk, aged 7)
John Rice (Suffolk, labourer and gardener)
Sarah Rice (Suffolk, aged 2)
Thomas Rice (Suffolk, bricklayer's lad)
William Rice (Suffolk, aged 9)



Henry Hopkins was born on 16 August 1767 at Deptford, Kent. He died on 27 September 1870 at 'Summerhome', Hopkins Street, Moonah, Tasmania. Hopkins arrived in Tasmania on 10 September 1822. He had been in the colony for 48 years before his death in 1870. Hopkins' Obituary remembered him as the Colony owing the rise of one of its chief exports, wool to him. A street in Moonah was named after Hopkins. Hopkins two main residences were 'Westella', in Elizabeth Street, Hobart, built in 1835 on the instruction it was to be the grandest home in all of Hobart. He purchased a country residence 'Summerhome', in Hopkins Street, Moonah in around 1840. This home was a former boarding school for boys. Current descendants of Henry still occupy 'Summerhome' and have kept furniture and other effects as Henry would have left it. The handpainted 1850s wallpaper from France still adorns the walls more than 150 years later.

Prior to migrating to Tasmania Hopkins had a sound business training, spending 16 years in the wool trade in England. As Hobart's first wool buyer, Hopkins was credited with the entire export of the colony in 1822; twelve bales of wool bought at 4d a pound, and sold in London at 7d.

In 1849 he became a leading member of the Anti-Transportation League and its early Hobart meetings were held at his house. He was one of the trustees and later president of the Hobart Savings Bank, chairman of directors of the Hobart Gas co. in 1857-70, president of the Chamber of Commerce, chairman of the Van Diemen's Land Bank, the Tasmanian Insurance Co. and the Mersey and Deloraine Tramway Co., an original subscriber and shareholder of the Hobart High School, and a generous donor to the Bible Society, Ragged School, Benevolent Society, City Mission and innumerable churches. (*Australian Dictionary of Biography*, Vol 1, pp552 and Obituary, *The Examiner*, 29 September 1870.)

Portrait of Henry Hopkins copied from *ancestry.com* (ariesguy12) with the following description: taken from a portrait in the foyer of St Michael's Uniting Church, Collins Street, Melbourne. Henry Hopkins applied for Immigrant Bounty Tickets on 17 March 1854 and 18 August 1856.