

Johnson, Thomas

Sponsored: Letitia Carey (Tipperary, Ireland; needlewoman)
Emma Reeve (Suffolk, general servant)

There were several by the name of Thomas Johnson about the time of the 'Trade Wind' arrival. Perhaps the best known one was Thomas Johnson (1806-1867) who was an ex-convict who played a significant part in opening up the Kentish Plains. He was one of its largest property holders, and the families of his three sons: Thomas Jnr., John G (Jack) and Lewis were among its earliest residents. As a youth from Isle of Ely, Cambridgeshire, Thomas Johnson (18) was convicted on 15 February 1823 for housebreaking and burglary and transported for life to VDL. He arrived in Hobart aboard the ship 'Asia' in January 1824. After serving 7 years, Thomas was granted a ticket of leave and joined stockmen working for Thomas Stocker at Dairy Plains, near Deloraine. Here Johnson (25) took up with a young Aboriginal woman, Dolly Dalrymple (23 – 1808-1864) who had previously lived with two other stockmen and had a daughter to each of them Dolly's father was a British seaman, George Briggs, working on a sealing vessel in Bass Strait. Her Aboriginal mother, Bong, came from the Dalrymple tribe around the Tamar Heads ... After taking up with Thomas Johnson, Dolly and he remained together for the rest of their lives, having a total of 13 children. Another Thomas Johnson, born about 1806, was tried on 5 March 1842 at Lincolnshire, England and was sentenced to transportation. He died in Tasmania in 1873.

Thomas Johnson was at a meeting held at the 'Prince of Wales Inn' for the purpose of erecting the Broadmarsh School. (*The Hobart Town Mercury*, Wed 30 Sep 1857, p3)

Thomas Johnson, landholder, Broadmarsh, signed a petition to His Excellency Sir William Thomas Denison, Knight, Lieutenant-Governor of Van Diemen's Land and its Dependencies as to the employment of Convicts generally and that the sending of Convicts to this Colony may not be discontinued at present - published in the *Hobart Guardian, or, True Friend of Tasmania*, Sat 2 Oct 1852, p4.

Thomas Johnson, a farmer in Glenorchy district for the last twenty years and overseer of the late Mr Lowe's property adjoining Chigwell was a witness in a court case concerning the effect a railway would have on two properties near Chigwell. (*The Mercury*, Sat 27 Sep 1873, p2)

Thomas Johnston, Farmer, Broad Marsh applied for Bounty Tickets. (Broadmarsh is about 23 kilometres (14 mile) north-east of New Norfolk)

Thomas Johnston, Farm servant, O'Brien's Bridge applied for Immigrant Bounty Tickets on 27 June 1854 in Hobart.

Thomas Johnson, Merchant, Hobart Town applied for Immigrant Bounty Tickets. (A Thomas Johnson was a wine and spirit merchant in Liverpool Street, Hobart)