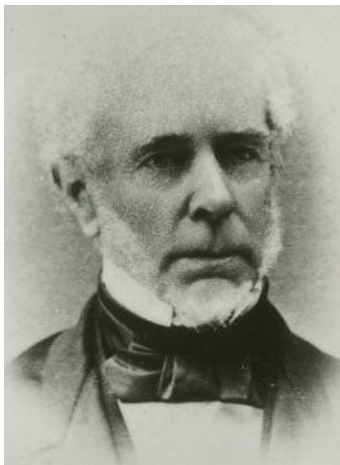


Morrison, Askin (1800-1876)

Sponsored: Alfred Abrames (Essex, farm labourer)
George Carver (Suffolk, ploughman and groom)
William Cawley (Suffolk, bricklayer)
Robert Harrington (Essex, farm labourer)
William Peek (Essex, farm labourer)
John Pilgrim (Lamarsh, Essex; farm labourer)
George Podd (Essex, ploughman)
John Stone (Suffolk, ploughman)
Charles Weavers (Essex, groom and labourer)
William Weavers (Essex, farm labourer and brick labourer)



Obituary - Died at his late residence, New Wharf, Hobart Town, on the evening of 29 May aged 76. Mr Morrison was descended from one of the Scotch settlers under King William III and in early life lived in Gortmore, Augher, County Tyrone, Ireland. On 13 December 1828, he sailed from London in the 'Orelia', and arrived at Hobart Town on 9 May 1829, with a quantity of merchandise, which he sold advantageously. After making a selection of land at St Peter's Pass, on 5 September in that year, he sailed to Sydney, and from thence to London, returning again to Tasmania. About 1831 or 32 he chartered the brig 'Caroline' and imported by that vessel a cargo of tea, loaded in China, by which he cleared £310,000. From that time he became identified with the progress of the colony, and never afterwards left Tasmania. He was the first director of the Union Bank at Hobart Town, and was so at his death, having been sole director for some years. He

was a promoter of the Hobart Town Gas Company, the Marine and Steam Companies, and acted as director of several up to the time of his death. He also threw his interest into the construction of the Sorell Causeway, and was closely identified with the whaling interests, several vessels having been built expressly for him, and employed in the trade. The shipyard in the Domain was for some time in his hands, and he was the owner, and long after the supporter of the twin steamer 'Kangaroo', without which there would be no conveyance of wagons or vehicles between Bellerive and Hobart Town. For many years he was one of the largest, if not the largest, buyer of wool for export to London, and he was also a large importer from China and Mauritius. As a landed proprietor he is best known in connection with the 'Runnymede' property, Prosser's Plains, which he acquired about the year 1844, and upon which he spent large sums in buildings, drains, roads, and improvements. ... At various periods Mr Morrison lost large sums of money; his most serious loss, amounting to about £378,000 was caused by the failure of Messrs Peters, Barnard, & Co., of Launceston. As a shareholder and eventual joint proprietor with his late friend Mr John Foster in the Mersey and Deloraine Tramway he sunk a considerable sum of money, but notwithstanding all, his prudent habits and business sagacity have enabled him to preserve a fair competency. Mr Morrison was appointed a JP on 14 October 1837, and when the Legislative Council, partly nominal and partly elective, was established he was returned for Sorell on 21 October 1851, for which place he was again elected, 10 Sept 1856, upon the introduction of responsible government. (*Examiner*, Sat 10 Jun 1876, p4) Other information obtained from *Cyclopedia of Tasmania*, 1 (Hobart 1900) and *Australian Dictionary of Biography*, Vol. 5.

Askin Morrison sponsored ten immigrants on the 'Trade Wind' coming from the border of Essex and Suffolk. He was a well-known business person and land owner. Some of the properties were St Peters Pass, near Oatlands; Rosny, at Bellerive; Runnymede and Prossers Plains. The agricultural labourers Morrison sponsored would have been very beneficial in the various estates he owned. In addition, Morrison had a number of projects in Hobart Town requiring the service of a bricklayer.

One such project might have been after he purchased a block of land measuring two acres, two roods and 28 perches at Arthur Circus on 6 November 1847. Morrison built a number of buildings and warehouses in the New Wharf in Hobart Town.

Askin Morrison passed away at his residence, New Wharf in Hobart Town. Morrison signed his will with a mark.

Picture of Askin Morrison copied from the *Australian Dictionary of Biography*, Volume 5, 1974.

Askin Morrison, Merchant, Hobart Town and New Wharf applied for ten Immigrant Bounty Tickets on 4 May 1854.