

### **Officer, Robert, Sir (1800-1879)**

Sponsored: Robert Fakes (Suffolk, groom and coachman)  
George Miles (Essex, gardener)  
John Miles (Essex, aged 9)  
Sarah Miles (Essex, needlewoman)  
William Miles (Essex, gardener)  
Sophia Miles nee Bennet (Essex, needlewoman)



Right Hon, Dr, Sir Robert Officer was born on 3 October 1800 near Dundee, Scotland, the son of Robert Officer, of 'Jacksbank', Glenbervie, Kincardineshire, Scotland. In 1821 he obtained his diploma as a member of the Royal College of Surgeons, London. As ship's surgeon in the 'Castle Forbes' he arrived at Hobart Town in March 1822. Initially he was engaged in agricultural pursuits. At the time of applying for bounty tickets he was a physician at New Norfolk. In 1856 Officer was elected unopposed for Glenorchy to the new House of Assembly and after five years as chairman of committees was chosen as Speaker in 1861. The *Australian Dictionary of Biography Volume 2*, 1967 records

his various occupations as anti-transportationist, benefactor (general), grazier (sheep), landowner, medical administrator, Member of Lower and Upper Houses, Presbyterian lay leader, public servant, ship's surgeon and surgeon.

Officer died on 8 July 1879 at 'Hallgreen', New Norfolk, Tasmania. 'Hallgreen' remained in the Officer family for several generations. In 1875 'Hall Green' was described in the *Mercury* (Mon, 15 March 1875, p3) as a beautiful estate, adjoining the New Norfolk bridge. He had six acres of hops, all in splendid condition. Sir Robert was one of the first growers to introduce the Coley plan of poling into the district; used for soaking the ends of the permanent poles to prevent decay.

Picture of Sir Robert Officer copied from *ancestry.com* (david1468\_1)

Robert Officer applied for Immigrant Bounty Tickets at New Norfolk on 30 June 1856.