

**Watson, George**

Sponsored: William Watkinson (Suffolk, labourer)

George Watson may have been a convict. There were 14 convicts by this name arriving in Tasmania so it is difficult to determine which convict he might have been. George Watson, a free settler, arrived in Tasmania per 'Eliza' from London and Swan River on 2 May 1831. It is more likely George Watson the latter was the person who applied for Immigrant Bounty Tickets.

G Watson', Esq., JP was referred to in the Hobart Quarter Sessions on Tues 20 June 1835 (*Colonial Times*, Tue 30 Jun 1835, p7) when William Young was charged with stealing several articles of wearing apparel, the property of G Watson, Esq. from his warehouse on the New Wharf. It appeared Young was employed by Watson as a whaler.

A report concerning the decline of the whaling industry in *The Mercury* (Sat 12 Sep 1903, p8) believed to have died out in the bay in 1847. Mr G Watson was said to be the last who fitted out a shore party. ... This important business employed for six months of the year a great number of men who in the summer engaged themselves in agricultural and other pursuits.

G Watson, merchant, Hobart Town applied for Immigrant Bounty Tickets on 30 June 1856.