

# THOMAS GILHAM

## DARING SMUGGLER

**T**homas Gilham is an important player in the life of his step-daughter Delia Gillam.<sup>1</sup> As a convicted smuggler he was to play his part in gaining the indulgence of bringing his destitute family to the colony.

A native of Kent, he is probably the illegitimate child of Elizabeth Gilham baptised in Aldington church on 10 April 1803.

In May 1823 Thomas was considering marriage—or having it thrust upon him. Marriage banns were published at the Bilsington parish church on 4, 11, and 18 May 1823. However it wasn't until 13 September that Thomas Gillam married Frances Furner in the little village standing on the side of a hill that slopes down to the Romney Marsh proper,<sup>2</sup> and became stepfather to her three children, Delia, James, and William

Even with these three young children tugging at her skirts, Mistress Furner (as she was then) must have been most alluring in her manner and disposition. Having shown a certain disregard for decorous behaviour in the past, by living in a common-law relationship on perhaps more than one occasion, the knowledge that her intended belonged to *The Blues* would not have deterred her in the least.

Was it second thoughts or smuggling business that kept the young man away from the church door and the altar rail? A little 'finger arithmetic' will show that Frances was pregnant at the time.

Thomas gave his occupation as 'labourer' when their children Louisa and Thomas were baptised at Aldington in 1824 and 1826.<sup>3</sup>

Smuggling was rife along the Kent coast and the gangs were armed and dangerous! On 1 August 1826 a reward was posted for the apprehension of the person or persons involved in the death of Quarter-Master Richard Morgan at Dover on 30 July. The Quarter-Master had met his death in the service of the Coast Blockade for the Prevention of Smuggling.<sup>4</sup>

Acting on information received the authorities sent a force of one hundred and twenty well-armed Preventive Service Men and two Bow Street Runners to Aldington, a village on the fringe of the Romney Marsh.

Early on Tuesday morning, 23 October 1826, George Ransley alias *Captain Bats*, leader of the gang known as *The Blues* was taken into custody together with Gilham, Giles, two men named Bailey, and two men named Wyor.

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<sup>1</sup> The spelling of Gilham soon became established as 'Gillam' and the latter spelling has been used throughout most of the story.

<sup>2</sup> Bignell, Alan 1975, *Kent Villages*, Robert Hale & Company.

<sup>3</sup> Research by Centre for Kentish Studies in 2000 quotes Teignmouth, Lord and Harper, Charles G. (1923) *The Smugglers* Volume II quoting reminiscences of an unnamed old man, native of Aldington, and probably James Slingsby, stating Thomas Gillam whom he called Gillian, as being at Aldington Frith.

<sup>4</sup> Finn, R. (1971) *The Kent Coast Blockade*, W.E. White.

The seven men were marched, hand-cuffed together, to Fort Moncrief where they were embarked on a naval vessel to Deptford and then to London. All except Giles were charged with the murder of Morgan. Other men to be arrested later included Richard Higgins, Paul Pierce, and John Bailey.<sup>5</sup> From their appearance before the magistrates it would appear that the gang was quite large—on occasions between 80 and 100 men would take part in landing and running uncustomed goods. They always had an armed party to protect them from the law and Thomas Gillam was one of those armed men.<sup>6</sup> Many men from both sides were shot and suffered serious injuries. On 6 January 1827 the Kent Winter Assize Court at Maidstone was filled with the prisoners, 'looking more like farm labourers than daring smugglers', and indeed they were mainly farm labourers and ploughmen.

Thomas Gilham otherwise known as Carpenter, and alias *Datchet Grey*, and aged 24 years, and the other men so charged pleaded guilty to a charge of having:

*assembled with other persons not in custody, on March 16th 1826, in the parish of New Romney and carrying firearms, for the purpose of illegally assisting in the landing and removal of a quantity of uncustomed spirits, together with another half dozen or so similar counts against the Revenue laws.*<sup>7</sup>

As the men were already in grave peril of losing their lives because of the crimes to which they had pleaded guilty the Crown did not propose to offer any evidence on the murder charge, to which they had pleaded "not guilty"! Possibly they did not have sufficient evidence to gain a conviction on this count. With only starlight to see by it would have been difficult to apportion blame to one armed man out of many.

The judge advised them to prepare to meet their God on Monday 5 February in case a reprieve was not granted them. Formal sentence of death was then passed and the prisoners removed to safe custody to Maidstone Gaol.

On the day the smugglers were to meet their end on Penenden Heath near Maidstone a large crowd had assembled. But they were to be disappointed on learning that the men had been reprieved and sent to the York hulk at Gosport, where they were to be transported to Van Diemen's Land aboard the ship *Governor Ready*.<sup>8</sup>

With the passage of time the smuggler (like the bushranger) has become a folk hero. He was really only a respectable villager who sold his illicit goods to anyone who could afford the price, wasn't he! Squire and parson were not above dealing with his kind so it must have been all right! It was fine sport to evade the Preventative Men and rob His or Her Majesty's Government of revenue! But stripped of its misty sentiment and romanticism what is left is violent organised crime.

On arrival at Hobart Town he coyly confessed to 'aiding and abetting smugglers', and claimed he had a wife and six [sic] children at Allington<sup>9</sup> [sic] where he had worked for a Mr Bolding. He was 5' 7½" tall, had brown hair, and hazel eyes, and had a scar on the outside of his left arm, a mole in the front of his neck, and a mole on his shoulder. He described himself as a farmer and ploughman, and gave his native place as Allington.<sup>10</sup>

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<sup>5</sup> Ibid.

<sup>6</sup> Transcript by Mark Hawes of article published in the Kentish Chronicle 31 October 1826.

<sup>7</sup> Finn, R., *The Kent Coast Blockade*.

<sup>8</sup> Douch, John 1985, *Smuggling: Rough Rude Men*, Crabwell Publications & Buckland Publications Ltd.

<sup>9</sup> Aldington is sometimes pronounced Allington, however there are also two villages of that name in Kent.

<sup>10</sup> CON 84/1 Alphabetical List of the Appropriation of convicts in the North, 1833-ca 1835 pp 226-7.

He conducted himself well following his arrival in the colony and in April 1828 his Master, William Lyttleton of Norfolk Plains, wrote to the Colonial Secretary requesting that his wife and family be allowed to join Thomas. Lyttleton wrote:

*Thomas Gilham (per Governor Ready) my assigned Servant, having left a large Family totally unprovided for in England, and being very desirous that they should be enabled to proceed to this colony to join him, I request you will be pleased to obtain for him the recommendation of His Excellency the Lieutenant Governor to that effect – I beg leave to add that Thomas Gilham is an industrious and well conducted man, and his Family are in every respect deserving of this indulgence I have presumed to recommend, and should his Excellency be pleased to afford his sanction to my request, I shall be ready to enter into a bond for any amount required for their maintenance and support on their arrival in the Colony.*<sup>11</sup>

The listed children were Delia, James, William, Louisa, and Thomas.

On 13 September 1828 the 333 ton American-built ship *Harmony* (Master, Bennett Ireland) sailed from Gravesend for Port Jackson and Hobart Town with a crew of twenty six, thirteen cabin passengers, nine women passengers and thirty-three children travelling steerage, and one hundred female prisoners.<sup>12</sup> (The ship's surgeon, William Clifford, recorded one hundred female convicts and eighty-seven free women passengers and children.)

Surgeon Clifford reported the rapid rise of the thermometer to 80° – 84° as the ship entered the tropics. He felt the excessive numbers on board contributed to the increased temperature and an outbreak of inflammatory fever but the 'free and active use of the lancet Repeated Purgatives Saline Diaphoretics cold andulated drinks...and free ventilation' brought the fever to heel. There were some cases of cholera which were controlled by the lancet again, and 'warm baths and large doses of colomel'<sup>13</sup> combined with opium.'

Nourishing soup and a proportion of wine helped those suffering from debility. Surgeon Clifford believed his charges experienced much good from the daily general personal examination that enabled him to:

*detect and arrest disease in the early stages and allowing them as much time on deck compatible [sic] with the Service as possible – Regularity of Meals [&] having the Hospital and Prison and all Parts of the Ship Kept extremely clean and Well Ventilated I may attribute my being able to land them in general good health.*<sup>14</sup>

After one hundred and twenty three days at sea, the *Harmony* slipped into Hobart Town on 14 January 1829. Amongst the steerage passengers were Frances Gilham [sic] and her children Delia (14), James (11), William (9), Louisa (5), Thomas (3), and Frances (1).<sup>15</sup>

The four oldest of Frances's children received tuition from a Mrs Bromley on board ship during the voyage.

Also travelling aboard the *Harmony*, under similar circumstances, were Rhoda Higgins (2 children), Mary Giles (3 children), Cath Bailey (6 children), Sarah Pierce (5 children), and Elizabeth Ransley (9 children). They were the wives and children of that same gang of Kent smugglers, apprehended and transported for life to Van Diemen's Land in 1827.

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<sup>11</sup> AOT: CSO 1/269/6482 pg 118.

<sup>12</sup> AOT: CSO 1/368/8375 pg 154.

<sup>13</sup> Possibly should read calomel, which was a popular medicine for stimulating evacuation of the bowels, teething with babies, and killing bacteria in the nineteenth century. Colomel may be a miss transcription on my part.

<sup>14</sup> AOT: AJCP: ADM 101/32 Reel 3197 Surgeon's Journals 1818-1850: *Harmony*.

<sup>15</sup> AOT: CSO 1/368/8375 p154+. Ages have been adjusted to what they would have been on arrival.

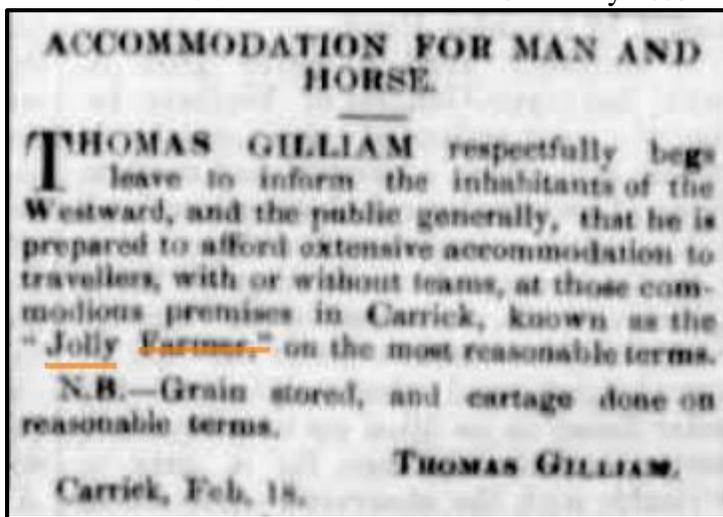
The indulgence having been granted, and having been 'sent on board at Woolwich by the Home Government', Frances Gillam arrived in Van Diemen's Land on 14 January 1829 (as stated).

She and the children remained on board the *Harmony* while officials attempted to locate her husband, who, as we know, was in the service of William Lyttleton Esq., at Norfolk Plains. The departure of the *Harmony* was held up until 7 February, owing to Thomas 'not having arrived from the Interior', and an inability to procure a conveyance for them to his master's place of residence. An aggrieved official declared that they should have been landed "and sent to the Factory."<sup>16</sup>

In July 1831 Thomas was assigned to his wife and apart from missing church muster and being drunk and disorderly on several occasions, lived a quiet life as a farmer. A far cry from those savage days when the coast of Kent 'from Sheerness to Pevensey and beyond echoed and re-echoed to the clash of cutlass, the rattle of musketry...the howls of the wounded, the groans of the dying'.<sup>17</sup>

He received his Ticket of Leave on 19 June 1833.<sup>18</sup>

He received a Conditional Pardon on 28 January 1839 which was extended 10 February 1846.<sup>19</sup>



Examiner Tuesday 19 February 1854 pg 4.

At the time of the 1848 Census Thomas and Frances were living at *Glenore*, Hagley, tenants of William Bryan.<sup>20</sup>

In the *Return of Tenant Farmers Westbury*, taken in 1851, there are two listings for Thomas Gillam possibly father and son: one is for 183 acres of cleared and fenced land with buildings, at Hagley; the other 483 acres all cleared and fenced, also at Hagley. The rent was 12s 6d per acre, the landlord William Bryan.

Thomas bought and sold land; was for a time landlord of *The Jolly Farmer Inn*; and generally accumulated wealth.

Thomas's benevolence in bringing out

his step-children did not extend to including them in his will—Louisa being the only one of the *Harmony* children to inherit—his beloved Thomas having died in 1854. Frances was to receive the benefit of his estate for her lifetime, and then it was to be sold and divided between his six surviving children and the children of Louisa Snooks. The gross value of the estate was sworn at under £600.

*Positively unreserved Sale of Valuable Country Properties. Monday, 10th January.*

*BELL & WESTBROOK are instructed by the executors of the late Mr. Thomas Gilham to sell by auction, at their mart, on MONDAY, 10th January, at 12 o'clock, without any reserve, The following valuable country properties, which will be submitted as under:*

<sup>16</sup> AOT: CSO 1/368/8375 pg 154+.

<sup>17</sup> Douch, *Smuggling: Rough Rude Men* 1985.

<sup>18</sup> HTG: 24 June 1833.

<sup>19</sup> AOT: CON 23/3.

<sup>20</sup> AOT: CEN 1/104 No. 154.

*Lot 1. The well known hotel at Carrick, the Prince of Wales, now occupied by Mr. Thos. Leith, at a rental of £100 per annum. The house, substantially built of brick, contains sixteen rooms. There is also a good cellar, 8-stall stone stable with loft, wooden stable with accommodation for 30 horses, large shed, skittle alley, butcher's shop, &c. The land comprises an area of 2 roods and 38 perches. At this house the Deloraine coach horses stand, and it is now doing the best ready-money trade of any house in Carrick.*

*Lot 2. Those eligible premises adjoining the Carrick Hotel, now let to Mr. Beck, at a rental of £30 per annum, for five years from 1st June last. The land has a frontage to the main, road of 60 links, with a depth of 390 links. The buildings comprise shop, dwelling-house, kitchen, &c.*

*Lot 3. 1 acre 3 roods and 19 perches of land at Hagley, on which is erected cottage and shop, now occupied by Mr. Hutton. at a rental of £12 per annum. Possession 1st May.*

*Lot 4. Seven-roomed house, with an acre of land at the corner of Shadford and Mary-streets, at Westbury. At present let to a respectable tenant at £15 per annum. Possession 1st May.*

*Lot 5. 4 acres of land at Westbury, bounded by Albert, William, and Frankland-streets, on which is erected a two-roomed cottage. This lot is let to Mr. Peter Helen until 1st March, 1878, at £10 per annum.*

*Lot 6 Contains 10 acres, at Westbury, bounded by Moore, Moriarty, and Arthur-streets. On this lot is a two-roomed, cottage let to Mr. Dawson at £10 per annum. Possession 1st May.*

*Lot 7. That desirable property at St. Leonards, comprising 48 acres 0 roods 34 perches, at present occupied by Mr. Mathieson at a rental of £30 per annum. There is a large dwelling-house and new school-room, kitchen, stables, sheds, productive garden, &c. The land is fenced and subdivided into several paddocks. From its close proximity to the Railway Station, this property must be considerably enhanced in value. Possession will be given on the 1st May.*

*Charts of the various lots can be seen at the mart, and at Mr. Leith's hotel, Carrick. Title guaranteed. Terms Twenty-five per cent. cash deposit; balance by acceptance at three and six months without interest. Further particulars can be obtained at the mart, and from Messrs. Rocher and Rocher. The auctioneers again remind purchasers that the sale is positively unreserved.<sup>21</sup>*

*At the sale of property belonging to the late Mr. T. Gillam, held by Messrs. Bell and Westbrook last week, the following prices were realised—Lot 1, Prince of Wales Hotel, Carrick, to Mr. T. Leith, £600; lot 2, property adjoining Carrick Hotel, to Mr. E. Gillam, £100; lot 3 cottage and shop at Hagley, occupied by Mr Hutton, to Mr. Joseph Gillam, £70; lot 4, seven roomed house at Westbury, to Mr. Joseph Gilham, £70; lot 5, four acres of land at Westbury, with two-roomed cottage, to Mr. S. Chappell, £75 ; lot 6, ten acres at Westbury, with two-roomed cottage, to Mr. W. Gilham, £70. The property at St. Leonards and the Plough Inn, Carrick, were not sold.<sup>22</sup>*

After the death of her husband in 1865, Frances carefully set aside money of her own for all of her children to inherit, each child being individually named in her will, thus identifying her eldest child, Delia, as her own and not Thomas Gilham's.<sup>23</sup> The gross value of her estate was sworn at under £700.

She died at Westbury 20 September 1869 from 'natural decay', a widow, aged 78 [sic] years.

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<sup>21</sup> Examiner: Thursday 6 January 1870 pg 4.

<sup>22</sup> Examiner: Tuesday 18 January 1870 pg 2.

<sup>23</sup> Tasmanian Probate Registry: Will 1378 Book 7A pg 113 dated 18 September 1869.

## FRANCES FURNER AND DELIA GILLAM

For many years the identity of Frances Gillam and her daughter Delia McDonald has been a mystery. A number of descendants of Frances and Thomas Gillam have proposed theories regarding the ancestry of Frances Gillam, and for quite some time were unwilling to accept the fact that Frances gave her maiden name as Furner when her youngest child, Elizabeth, was born in Tasmania in 1843.

MARRIAGES solemnized in the Parish of <u>Bilsington</u>	
in the County of <u>Kent</u>	in the Year 18 <u>23</u>
<u>Thomas Gilliam &amp; Co</u>	of <u>this</u> Parish
<u>Frances Furner</u>	and <u>Frances Furner</u>
or <u>this</u> Parish	
were married in this <u>Parish</u> by <u>Parson</u> with Consent of	
this _____ Day of	
<u>Sept the 13</u> in the Year One thousand eight hundred and <u>Twentythree</u>	
By me <u>J. Bond Curate</u>	
This Marriage was solemnized between us { <u>the X Mark of Thomas Gilliam</u>	
{ <u>the X Mark of Frances Furner</u>	
In the Prefence of { <u>John Baiden</u>	
{ <u>J. Philp</u>	
No. 34. <u>John Chapman</u>	

*Marriage entry in the Bilsington Parish Register, for Thomas Gilham and Frances Furner. Courtesy County Record Office, Kent, England.*

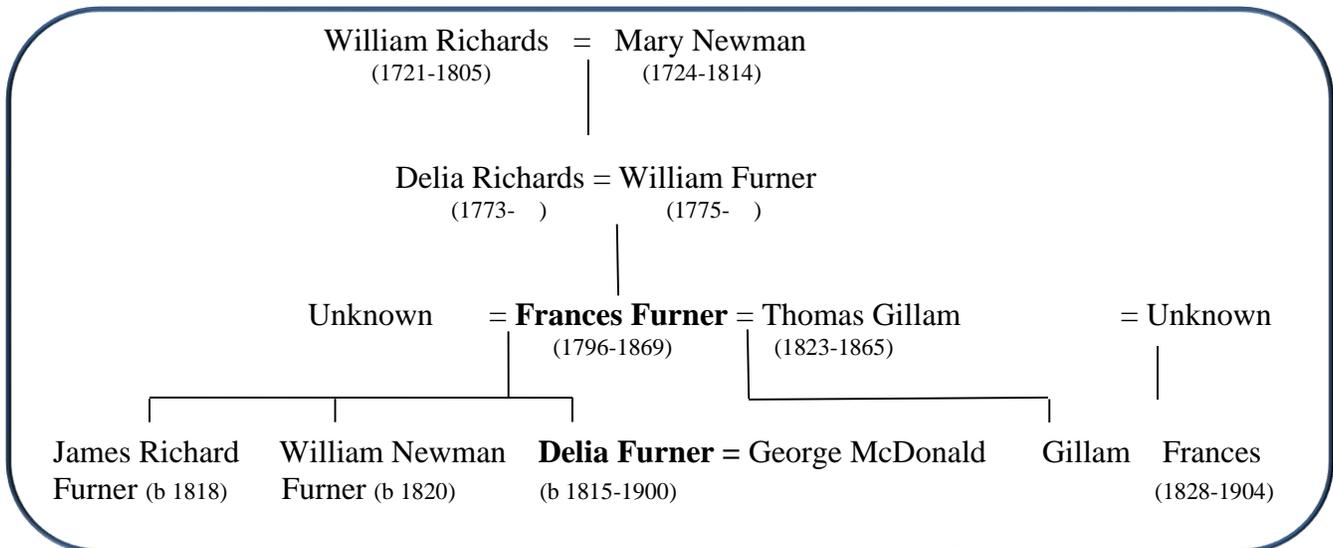
Her marriage to Thomas Gilham [sic] at Bilsington in Kent in 1823 confirms Furner as her name at the time of her marriage but the marriage register entry is silent on the matter of her marital status: was she a spinster or a widow?

Because Frances gave her maiden name as Furner when Elizabeth was born I have always assumed that she was a spinster when she married Thomas Gillam in 1823. At this stage there was no discrepancy with the known facts until Edwy Finch's letter raised the question of a possible marriage to a man named Preston! Edwy Finch, a great grandson of Delia, stated in a letter to me, that his great-grandmother Delia had only one full-brother, the rest being half-brothers and sisters, and also stated Delia's name to be Cordelia Preston.

As Delia is known only as Delia Gillam in the Tasmanian records this information, or that upon which it is based, must surely have been passed down through the family by Delia herself. But how accurate is it? Did she really know her true origins?

I suppose the inference Edwy Finch was making was that his great great grandmother Frances Gillam had been married twice and was a widow when she married Thomas and this would account for and legitimise the other half-siblings.

The fact that Frances Gillam had children from other illicit relationships became known when she brought those children (all referred to as Gillam) to Tasmania in 1829 and was confirmed when she included them in her Will. It was only when the entries for the baptisms of Frances's three children from one such relationship, Delia, William, and James, were located that a problem arose as to her status when she married Thomas. Widows usually, but not always, married under their married names so even though her marriage certificate doesn't state her marital status at all I have always presumed that Frances was a spinster and that her three eldest children were 'base born'. My presumption is not necessarily correct.



If Delia Gillam wasn't a Gillam, then who was she?

The Baptism Registers for the church of Saints Peter & Paul in the parish of Bilsington in Kent tell a slightly different story to that passed down to Edwy Finch. The baptism of Delia is recorded on 8 October 1815. She is documented as the daughter of William and Frances Furner whose abode was Bilsington. So much for being Cordelia Preston! This however is the only mention of a William Furner as the husband of Frances.<sup>24</sup> No record appears of his burial in the parish and it is not known what happened to him. If she was then the entry in the Tasmanian records which gives her maiden name as Furner is incorrect.

I do not think that he existed! Perhaps it is more probable that the Bilsington baptism entry is an error made by the clergyman when writing the event into the register and the William Furner cited is Delia's grandfather and not her father! Sadly Church Registers are not immune to error, accidental or otherwise, but we will probably never know for sure. Delia's younger brothers, James

<sup>24</sup> The records prior to the baptism of Delia have not yet been located or searched.

Richard Furner and William Newman Furner, were baptised in the same parish church as their sister, neither has a father recorded. I wonder if they all even have the same father?

As more information has become available on the Internet it has been possible to unravel some of the mysteries. The next clue came when the marriage was found of a young woman named Delia Richards to a William Furner at Boxley in Kent on 19 December 1794.

Was it possible that they were the parents of Frances Furner? Having the uncommon name of Delia I thought that this was possible, but there were no records of the birth or baptism of a daughter Frances at that place ca 1791(which was presumed to have been her birth year as her age was given as 78 when she died).

Delia Richards and William Furner are known to have had four children, one of whom was a Frances, born on 20 April 1796 and baptised at All Saints Church, Maidstone, Kent on 22 May 1796. She would therefore, have been 73 years of age at the time of her death in 1869.

As we have seen Delia had three siblings whose parentage is only partly known and eight half-siblings of whom Thomas Gillam is the father. As all of the children are of Frances' blood, and some married into other related families, brief biographies are included in the following two chapters and are followed by the stories of George and Delia's children.

Delia used the name Newman for one of her sons. It was also given to one of her grandsons. At first this seemed to suggest that this may have been the surname of the father of Frances's children. However it is also the maiden name of Delia's great grandmother, Mary Newman the mother of Delia Richards.

And so it came to pass that Delia Gillam came to the colony of Van Diemen's Land and two years after her arrival was the wife of George McDonald.

Delia survived her husband by 22 years and she and her son Joseph lived separately on the same farm at Castra Road (Sprent).<sup>25</sup>

In a letter to one of her aunts, Maria Howman asks how granny is keeping, and her husband, Harry, wants to know if 'granny and old Haydon is married yet'.<sup>26</sup> I suspect that this is Thomas Haydon, a widower, whose family lived on the Castra Road and were known to Delia and her half-sister Frances Hogben. He was definitely 'old Haydon' as he would have been in his nineties about this time.

Delia died at Sprent on 11 August 1900, aged 85 years, and is buried in the Ulverstone Church of England Cemetery:

*Mrs D. M'Donald, of Castra-road, near Sprent, died on Saturday morning about 4 o'clock. The cause of death was immediately due to an accident that deceased met with some few weeks back. She was standing on a chair hanging some curtains, and fell, breaking her leg. Owing to her great age (85 years) she was unable to get over it, and passed away quietly on the day named. Deceased was a native of Kent, England, and came here many years ago. Her son, the late George M'Donald, built the first house on Ulverstone. This was about 1860, and the house was a public one, known as "M'Donald's." It was destroyed by fire some two years ago, and the site is now occupied by a fine brick pile known as the Ulverstone Hotel. The remains of deceased were interred in the Anglican cemetery on Sunday. The funeral cortege was a very small one, owing, no doubt, to the unsettled state of the weather. Deceased leaves a large number of children, and grand and great grand-children. The late Mrs Jas. A. Fogg, sen., was one of her daughters.*<sup>27</sup>

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<sup>25</sup> North West Post: 17 October 1895 Affiliation Case.

<sup>26</sup> Undated letter written by Maria Howman, circa early 1890s.

<sup>27</sup> Daily Telegraph: Friday 17 August 1900 pg 4.

**FRANCES FURNER**, GGGG Grandmother

Birth: 20 Apr 1796 Place: Kent, England  
Death: 20 Sep 1869 Place: Westbury Age: 73  
Burial: 24 Sep 1869 Place: St Andrew's CE, Westbury  
Residence: Glenore (1851)  
Father: WILLIAM FURNER (ca 1775- )  
Mother: DELIA RICHARDS (1773- )

**Spouse 1:** ? UNKNOWN, GGGG Grandfather

Status: Unknown  
Children: DELIA (ca 1815-1900)

**Spouse 2:** ? UNKNOWN

Status: Unknown  
Children: JAMES RICHARD (ca 1818-1897)  
WILLIAM NEWMAN (1820-1893)

**Spouse 3:** **THOMAS GILLAM**

Birth: ca 1803 Place: Aldington, Kent, England  
Baptism: ?10 April 1803 Place: Aldington, Kent, England  
Death: 15 May 1865 Place: Westbury Age: 62  
Burial: 19 May 1865 Place: St Andrew's C.E., Westbury  
Occupation: Labourer (1824 1826 1836) Farmer (1843 1865)  
Marriage: 13 Sep 1823 Place: Parish Church, Bilsington, Kent, by Banns

May be the illegitimate son of Elizabeth Gilham, baptised 10 April 1803, however no bastardy papers are available for Aldington for this date to identify his father. This Elizabeth Gilham had two other illegitimate children - Edward Woodruff Gilham (baptised 17 March 1798, buried 14 May 1800), and Mercy Gilham, baptised 17 August 1806. Elizabeth herself may have been the illegitimate child of Massy Gillam baptised 5 February 1775.

Children: LOUISA (1824-1848)  
THOMAS (No known issue) (1826-1854)  
??? MARY (Infant) (1830-1830)  
ISRAEL (Twin) (1831-1906)  
JOSEPH (Twin) (1831-1872)  
CATHERINE (No known issue) (1833-1903)  
EDWARD [Whopper] (1835-1900)  
MARIA (1838-1911)  
ELIZABETH SUSAN (1843-1926)

**Spouse 4:** ? UNKNOWN

Children: FRANCES (ca 1828-1904)

# A LITTLE TRIBE OF STRAYS

## **JAMES RICHARD FURNER [alias GILLAM], Son**

Birth: ca 1818 Place: Kent, England  
 Baptism: 5 Jul 1818 Place: Bilsington, Kent, England  
 Death: 8 Oct 1897 Place: Murchison East, Victoria Age: 79  
 Burial: 10 Oct 1897 Place: Murchison, Victoria  
 Occupation: Shoemaker (1851 1853 1855 1863 1864) Bootmaker (1880 1888 1897)  
 Residence: Bilsington, Kent (1818-1828) Westbury, Tasmania (1829 1853 1864)  
                   Murchison, Victoria  
 Father: ? UNKNOWN  
 Mother: FRANCES FURNER (1796-1869)

### **Spouse: MARY HERBERT**

Birth: ca 1819 Place: Edinburgh, Scotland  
 Death: 16 Dec 1896 Place: Murchison East, Victoria Age: 77  
 Burial: 18 Dec 1896 Place: Murchison, Victoria  
 Occupation: Daughter of a soldier. Widow (1864)  
 Father: ..... HERBERT  
 Mother: MARY .....  
 Marriage: 5 Jul 1864 Place: Residence of Wesleyan Minister, Westbury

Children: WILLIAM SAMUEL (1849-1907)  
               FRANCES LOUISA (1851-1917)  
               EDWARD (Died as an infant) (1853-1855)  
               JAMES HERBERT (ca1856-1913)  
               JOSEPH (ca1858-1911)  
               MARIA [or CATHERINE] (Died as an infant) (1863-1863)

Married as Mary Herbert, 45 years, widow. [Wesleyan Marriage Register entry No. 70]

Father a soldier (name not stated), mother Mary, maiden name not known. Informant of death was J.H. Gillam, son, Murchison. Birthplace given as Edinburgh, Scotland. 25 years in Tasmania, 25 years in Victoria. [VIC RGD Deaths Index No. 14678]

"Another old resident of Murchison - Mrs Gillam, senr. - paid the last debt of nature on Wednesday afternoon. The old lady, who was within three years of four score, had been in poor health for some two or three years past, and death was due to a general breaking up of the system. Mrs Gillam was born at Edinburgh Castle, Edinburgh, in 1819, her father being a soldier. She spent the earlier years of her life in the Grecian Islands, where she married her first husband, with whom she came to Victoria about 50 years ago. Shortly after her arrival in this colony she lost her husband, and later on married her second, Mr Gillam, who survives her. She spent 25 years in Tasmania, but returned again to Victoria, residing a few years in Melbourne, and the last 20 years of her life she spent in Tatura and Murchison, finding a home with her second son, Mr James Gillam, jun. She leaves three daughters and three sons, all of whom are married, the daughter residing in Tasmania. The remains will be interred in the Murchison cemetery this afternoon, the funeral leaving her son's residence, Murchison East, at 3 o'clock." [Murchison Advertiser 18 December 1896]

James Gillam was baptised, as James Richard Furner, in 1818. He was the illegitimate son of Frances Furner of Bilsington, Kent according to both the will of Frances and the parish records.<sup>28</sup> He is known as Gillam in Van Diemen's Land.

He was eleven years old when he arrived in the colony with his mother and siblings in 1829. At a young age he learnt the trade of shoemaking, practicing his craft at *Glenore* before moving to Westbury in 1853.<sup>29</sup>

His private life is somewhat irregular and confusing. His marriage, at the age of forty-six, to Mary Holmes came a little late in the relationship.

It is possible that the (by then) widowed Mary may have deserted her husband or have been deserted by her husband, and needing the protection of a man she took-up with James. Mary had a daughter Jane who was born in 1847. Baptised into the Catholic Church the child's father is given as John Homes [sic].<sup>30</sup> Years later Jane is occasionally known as Gillam. Whatever may have been the fate of John Ho(l)mes is at present a mystery but in 1849 Mary gave birth to a son, William Samuel Gillam, in Little Scotland, Geelong, Victoria. William was followed by a daughter, Frances Louisa (named for her grandmother and deceased aunt?) who was born at Exton in 1851, the couple having returned to Van Diemen's Land at an unknown date. The birth registration gave Mary's name as Mary Gillam formerly Holmes. The birth of Edward followed in December 1853, this time Mary is Mary Gillam formerly Herbert (her maiden name). This little boy died of a fever in 1855.

Another son, James Herbert Gillam, escaped registration in 1856, as did Joseph a few years later. James was living in a rented house in Shadforth Street, Westbury in 1858.<sup>31</sup> Maria (or Catherine) was born in April 1863 and died several weeks later. At long last, on 5 July 1864, James and Mary were married by the Wesleyan preacher Mr LeLean at his residence Westbury; perhaps by now there was no legal impediment to their marriage.

Their daughter Frances Louisa Gillam was seventeen when she married Robert Walker at Exton on 5 May 1868. Robert was a son of Michael and Sarah Walker and was born at *Annandale*, Perth 4 March 1844.

Frances and Robert farmed at *Osmaston* until a leg injury forced Robert to move to Moltema where they had a general store. They retired to Exton and Robert died in the Devon Hospital, Latrobe in 1916. Frances died at Exton in 1917. They raised fourteen children.<sup>32</sup>

With their only surviving daughter safely married, James and Mary left Tasmania and settled in Victoria around the year 1869. James continued to work as a boot-maker, settling at East Murchison.

James lived to see his three sons married and settled in the Murchison district. He died of senile decay at the age of eighty on 8 October 1897. Mary died the previous year after suffering from a cancer for two years. Her son, James Herbert Gillam, mistakenly advised that she had married James Gillam in Melbourne at the age of twenty-seven (1846) which is also the date of her arrival in Van Diemen's Land. Her father's occupation is soldier but his Christian name is not known.

The year 1846 may in fact be the date of marriage to John Homes (or Holmes) or simply an attempt at a cover-up. Ten months later James told a different and more accurate story on the death of his father.

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<sup>28</sup> Baptism Register of Sts Peter & Paul, Bilsington, Kent: 05 July 1818.

<sup>29</sup> Examiner: 15 January 1853 pg 56 c1.

<sup>30</sup> AOT: Launceston Catholic Church Baptism Register, No. 154.

<sup>31</sup> HTG: Valuation Roll for the District of Westbury 11 May 1858 pg 641.

<sup>32</sup> Walker Family 1988, *A Goodly Heritage. The Growth and Achievement of a Tasmanian Family*, pp 60-88.

## **WILLIAM NEWMAN FURNER [Alias GILLAM], Son**

Birth:	1820	Place: Kent, England
Baptism:	7 May 1820	Place: Bilsington, Kent, England
Death:	22 Feb 1893	Place: Westbury Age: 73
Burial:	26 Feb 1893	Place: Westbury Cemetery, C.E.
Occupation:	Farmer	
Residence:	Kent England (1820-1828) Westbury (1829-1893)	
Father:	UNKNOWN	
Mother:	FRANCES FURNER (1796-1869)	

Baptism entry gives parent as Frances Furner only, but did not state that he was illegitimate. [Bishop's Transcript entry No. 63/1820]

Married Eliza Dry at the Wesleyan Chapel, Launceston. Witnesses to marriage were Thomas and Alice Leith. [RGD 1184]

Died at his residence, Westbury. Cause of death bronchitis and cardiac failure. Informant of death was his sister, C. Leith, Westbury. Age given as 73 years. [RGD 866]

### **Spouse: ELIZA DRY**

Birth:	Sep 1835	Place: Norfolk Plains
Baptism:	28 Jun 1837	Place: Longford, C.E. Age: 1
Death:	16 Aug 1908	Place: Westbury Age: 72
Burial:	18 Aug 1908	Place: Westbury Cemetery, C.E.
Occupation:	Farmer (1894)	
Father:	CHARLES DRY (ca1795-1835)	
Mother:	JANE LEITH (1819-1888)	
Marriage:	15 Feb 1853	Place: Wesleyan Chapel, Patterson street, Launceston

Baptism Church of England Longford. [RGD 8151]

On her second marriage she gave father's name as Charles Dry (a large land proprietor) and mother as Jane Blacksell. Presumably this variation represents Blackstone! [Methodist Marriage Register entry No. 81]

Died at her residence, King Street, Westbury. Buried Church of England cemetery, Westbury. Funeral notice Daily Telegraph Tuesday 18 August 1908 p1 c1. No issue either marriage.

Will dated 13 August 1908. Gave bulk of estate (numerous blocks of land at Westbury) to Arthur Charles Frost and his children, her personal estate to her husband John Griffin for his lifetime, and then to Ada Eveline Lowery, wife of Richard Henry Lowery. [Daughter of her half-sister, Jane Sturzaker Lucas.] Value did not exceed £151.

No Children

**B**orn in England in 1820, William married seventeen year old Eliza Dry at the Wesleyan Chapel, Patterson Street, Launceston in February 1853. He was about thirty-three years old. Eliza was the only child of Charles Dry and Jane nee Leith.

The baptism of William, as William Newman Furner, on 7 May 1820 explains the use of this second name in the McDonald family.<sup>33</sup> Perhaps William was a favourite brother of Delia! The marriage was childless and they are supposed to have raised two orphaned girls.<sup>34</sup> One of these orphans was Gertrude Frost who married William's nephew Walter Dawson. Gertrude was a daughter of Eliza's half sister Mary Ann Sturzaker, and she was not an orphan! But a child didn't have to be orphaned to be fostered out. Impoverished parents would be grateful to family for helping out in such a way, affording the child a better chance in life. William had a house and 50 acres of land (sic) in Arthur Street, Westbury in 1858. He also rented out a house and garden in Adelaide Street to John Pugh.<sup>35</sup> William farmed his own land at Westbury up to his death in 1893. He died at his residence, Westbury, on 22 February 1893 from bronchitis and cardiac failure. He was buried in the Anglican Cemetery in Westbury.

John Griffin, Sub-Inspector of Police at Westbury married the widowed Eliza on 27 July 1898. Eliza died at Westbury on 18 August 1908. Her obituary<sup>36</sup> adds a little more detail about her life:



Police Sergeant John Griffen  
Weekly Courier 31 July 1913 pg 23.

*The funeral of the late Mrs. John Griffen took place at Westbury on Tuesday, and was attended by a large concourse of people, some coming from far along the North-West Coast to pay the last token of respect to one so well known and highly respected. The deceased, who was the only daughter of the late John Dry, was born at Westbury on September 19, 1835. She was granddaughter of the late Mr. W. Elliot Leith, who, about 70 years ago, resided on the property, at present owned by Mr. Percy Hart, Launceston, and known as Leith Farm, Westbury. The late John Dry having died when the deceased was an infant, her mother later married the late John Sturgater [sic], then residing in Launceston. About the year 1853 the deceased was married in Launceston at the residence of her stepfather to the late William Gillam, and took up her residence at Thump-up, Westbury, on property owned by her husband, who predeceased her some 16 years. For a few years she remained on the Thump-up property, but about 11 years ago she married Mr. John Griffen, who survives her. She then removed from Thump-*

*up, and resided with her husband on the Westbury township, where she passed away on Sunday morning last. Deceased had no children, but leaves a large family connection.*

<sup>33</sup> Bilsington Parish Register of Sts Peter & Paul, pg 8 No. 63.

<sup>34</sup> Hearsay: Judy Hall in an interview with Jack Gillam, [n.d.]

<sup>35</sup> HTG: Valuation Roll for the District of Westbury pg 641.

<sup>36</sup> Mercury Friday 21 August 1908 pg 2.

**FRANCES GILLAM**, Daughter

Birth: ca 1828 Place: Kent, England  
Baptism: 10 Feb 1828 Place: Aldington, Kent, England  
Death: 10 Jan 1904 Place: North Motton Age: 76  
Burial: 11 Jan 1904 Place: Ulverstone Cemetery, C.E.  
Occupation: Widow (1904)  
Residence: VDL (1829) Preston (1904)  
Father: UNKNOWN  
Mother: FRANCES FURNER (1796-1869)

Baptism entry gives parent as Frances Gillam only. States she is the illegitimate daughter of Frances Gillam. [Parish Register]

Frances arrived free Hobart Town, per the *Harmony*, 14 January 1829.

Witnesses to marriage were William Hogben and Benjamin Lawes. Illiterate. [C.E. and RGD 2049]

For death see Advocate 13 January 1904.

Cause of death was senile debility aged 79 years [sic]. [Broadfield Burial Register]

Age at death given as 79 years in burial register. Surname recorded as Hogbourne. [C.E. 427]

**Spouse: JAMES HOGBEN**  
Birth: ca 1818 Place: Kent, England  
Death: 22 Jun 1898 Place: Castra Road Age: 80  
Burial: 26 Jun 1898 Place: Ulverstone Cemetery, C.E.  
Occupation: Wheelwright (1845 1848 1850 1852) Wheelwright and Blacksmith (1864)  
Farmer (1898)  
Father: JAMES HOGBEN (ca1785-1858)  
Mother: ANN KEMBER (ca1785-1857)  
Marriage: 10 Feb 1845 Place: St Andrew's Church, Westbury, C.E.

Father was transported to VDL per the ship *Governor Ready* with Thomas Gillam.

Arrived free, Hobart Town, 22 Sept 1830, per the *Mellish*.

Age given as 25 years on marriage. [RGD 2049]

Age given as 83 years on burial [C.E. 297]

For brief obituary see North West Post 30 June 1898.

1858 Living in house, Shadforth Street, Westbury. Owned by John Fawns, Launceston. [HTG Tuesday 11 May 1858 Valuation Roll for District of Westbury p641]

Insolvent in 1860.

Cause of death was senile debility. Informant of death was daughter-in-law, Mary Anne (X) Hogben, Castra Road. [RGD 1050] Also see North West Post 30 June 1898.

Children: JAMES (1845-1916)  
FRANCES ANN [Annie] (1848-1924)  
LOUISA (Died as an infant) (1850-1851)  
ELIZABETH (Died as an infant) (1852-1854)

**F**rances Gillam was baptised at Aldington 10 February 1828. If her age was nine months at the time of her departure from England (and presumably her mother knew how old she was) this would have her born between December 1827 and January 1828. She must have

been something of a surprise to Thomas Gillam, and perhaps a little difficult for his wife Frances to explain. But then it had happened before.

She married at the age of 17 in 1845. Her husband James Hogben junior was a wheelwright. Like his wife, he too had voyaged to Van Diemen's Land with his mother and brothers and sisters (in the *Mellish* in 1830) to be reunited with his father, another of *The Blues* gang.<sup>37</sup>

Frances and James had four children: James, Frances Ann, Louisa, and Elizabeth.

The two youngest children died in infancy: fifteen-month old Louisa died in 1851 from inflammation caused by scalding, and twenty-month old Elizabeth died of Scarlet fever in 1854.

In 1858 James was renting a house in Shadforth Street, Westbury.<sup>38</sup> The family moved to the Leven where they kept up connections with Delia and George McDonald both families living on the Castra Road. Frances lived on the Castra Road for 40 years, only leaving to go to live with her daughter two years before her death in 1904.<sup>39</sup> This would mean that they arrived at the Leven about 1862 but there are no Hogbens in the Valuation Rolls until 1876 when a James Hogben junior is listed as occupying a hut and land at Abbotsham. It is possible that an employer supplied some kind of board and lodging.

James Hogben died on 22 June 1898 at Castra Road, aged 83 years.

Frances and James's eldest child, James III, was born at Westbury in 1845. He married Mary Ann Haydon at River Leven in 1865. Mary Ann was only 15 years of age. She was the daughter of Thomas Haydon and Margaret Smith and was born at Westbury in 1850. (Thomas was the 'old Haydon' Delia McDonald was linked too by Maria Howman.)

A night at the pub on 6 July 1893 was the start of a painful period in the life of the family. Stopping to open a gate on his way home up the Castra Road, he was thrown from his horse, which trampled on and broke one of his legs.<sup>40</sup> Doctors McCall and Sprott were called in to attend to the victim. A fortnight later the doctors came and placed his leg in a cradle, resulting in much discomfort and pain for James. Later it was discovered that there was a second break in the leg, at the ankle. In August the leg was put into Plaster of Paris. Christmas came and the leg was still troublesome. Mary Ann thought the leg had healed crooked and in April 1894 they sued the doctors for negligence but lost the case.<sup>41</sup>

In the course of the investigation James admitted he was a little 'merry' the night the accident happened. He had 'never been a strict teetotaller and had been pretty often under the influence of drink. He might have got drunk on an average about one in six months.' Why that should have been pertinent to the way his leg was treated I'm not sure, excepting that it would put him in a bad light in the eyes of any teetotal members of the jury!

About five weeks after the plaster had been removed from his leg he was able to get about on crutches, with a sling on his leg.

Various friends visited the invalid while he was laid up and gave their pennyworth of advice — Joseph Smith, well known for his veterinary knowledge; Walter Gillam (Edward Gillam's son); and Joe McDonald who made the wooden box first used by the doctors.

Mother and wife nursed him throughout the ordeal. His mother thought him 'the best patient that she ever saw'.

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<sup>37</sup> AOT: CSO 1/476/10612 pg 57.

<sup>38</sup> HTG: Valuation Roll for the District of Westbury g p641. The house was owned by John Fawns of Launceston.

<sup>39</sup> The Advocate & Times: Wednesday 13 January 1904 pg 2 c4.

<sup>40</sup> North West Post: 14 April 1894.

<sup>41</sup> Ibid.

As if this wasn't enough of a trial:

*A serious accident happened on Saturday to Mr. James Hogben, who resides on the Castra road: Whilst he was walking alongside of a dray laden with potatoes, holding on to a bag which was carried on the shafts, the wheel went into a rut. This knocked the bag off, striking Mr. Hogben, who fell to the ground. The wheel then passed over his legs, breaking one, and crushing the ankle of the other badly. Medical attendance was summoned, when the broken limb was set. It will be some time, however, before the sufferer will be able to get about again. Some three years ago Mr. Hogben had his leg broken in the same place through being thrown from his horse.*<sup>42</sup>

Drs McCall and Stuart found it necessary to amputate the leg and in the months that followed the community rallied to the family's support with financial aid.<sup>43</sup>

James and Mary Ann had no children of their own but had two "adopted" children.<sup>44</sup>

Mary Ann Hogben [nee Haydon] had a nephew, George Haydon junior. There was no love lost between the 19 year old George and his Uncle James Hogben. On 8 February 1896 when James and his niece's husband Thomas Johnstone [sic] called on Mrs George Haydon senr to collect some things that had belonged to old Thomas Haydon, James' father-in-law, trouble ensued.

Thomas Johnstone was doing all the talking! Mrs George Haydon (young George's mother) was allegedly abusive, calling James 'a dog', and the fuss brought young George into the affair; words were exchanged as were a few blows. The result was a visit to the courthouse.<sup>45</sup>

Old Mr Haydon had been living with his daughter Mary Ann Hogben on and off for the last 13 to 14 years, occasionally returning to his son George senr, but had left there before the death of George in 1893. A native of Plymouth, as a much younger man, he long remembered viewing the captive Emperor Napoleon of France 'a short, stout man, very sharp looking (and as sharp as he looked)' Thomas reported.<sup>46</sup>

The Hogben, Haydon, and Snooks families are intimately connected to each other by marriage. James and Frances Ann Hogben married Haydons; Haydons married Close's, and Thomas Snooks also married into the Close family, as did one of Israel Gillam's daughters.

James Hogben III died at Ulverstone in June 1916, having celebrated his golden wedding the previous month, and his wife Mary Ann died at Waratah in December 1927.

Abraham Charles Haydon, brother of Mrs Mary Ann Hogben, married Frances Ann Hogben, the only surviving daughter of James and Frances, at Thomas Haydon's dwelling, *Green Valley*, River Leven in 1864. Two children were born to them, Amelia Susan in 1865 (she married Walter Gillam), and Esther Susan born posthumously in 1867 following the death of her father. Esther married Thomas Johnson, grandson of Thomas and Dolly Johnson of Latrobe.

Abraham lost his life when the cutter *Keera* was wrecked at the Leven Heads in 1866. His brother Thomas was also drowned:

*A sad and fatal shipwreck occurred at the Leven Heads on Sunday last the 7th inst., of which the following are the particulars :—"The cutter Keera, which left Launceston last week, arrived at the mouth of the Leven on Sunday afternoon, and the tide being out, she anchored outside, the sea at*

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<sup>42</sup> Examiner: Tuesday 24 August 1897 pg 6.

<sup>43</sup> Examiner: Thursday 7 October 1897 pg 3.

<sup>44</sup> Ibid. An Albert Ernest Hogben was enrolled at the Ulverstone State School 8 July 1890 Register No. 634. His name and age fit that of Albert Ernest Close whose mother was nee Sarah Ann Haydon and a sister of Mary Ann Haydon. Albert Ernest married Israel Gillam's daughter, Edith. The other adopted child was a daughter, Mrs A. Devlin.

<sup>45</sup> North West Post: 27 February 1896.

<sup>46</sup> Coastal News: 30 September 1892, *Something Moving*.

*the time being calm. Between eight and nine p.m., however, it blew hard from the eastward, and it is thought either that she dragged her anchor, or that those on board, after getting up the anchor, could not manage her. Some think they were asleep, but of course all is mere conjecture. On Monday morning the west beach of the Leven was strewed with the wreck and cargo. The crew of the unfortunate vessel consisted of two brothers, Thomas and Abraham Haydon sons of Mr T Haydon, a respectable farmer at the Leven. A female passenger had been landed at the Penguin on Sunday. Abraham Haydon leaves a young widow and child. This sad occurrence has thrown several families into deep distress. The principal part of the cargo, consisting of soft goods, &c., belonged to Mr Fogg, the postmaster and storekeeper at the Leven, worth about £500. A man of the name of George Lewis had been in Launceston, and laid out his all in cargo, which he had put on board the Keera. Search has been made all along the coast for the bodies of the young men, but up to this time they have not been found.—Launceston Times, October 10.*<sup>47</sup>

Only Abraham's body was recovered and a coronial inquest was held on 26 October 1866.

The widowed Frances Ann married, secondly, John Porter a farmer, at Holy Trinity Church Ulverstone on 17 May 1869 and had a family of ten children; the eldest, Bella Matilda, being born in October 1869, the youngest, Frank Allan, being born in 1890.

Their second child, Clara Louisa, died from the effects of teething at the age of nine months. It was not uncommon for infants to die from the fevers resulting from teething. On occasions the medicines available were fatal, some being mercury based.

The eldest son, John Hogben Porter, born Castra Road in 1875 married his cousin Ada Porter in 1901. Leslie and Frank Porter married Wilson sisters, Ethel and Louisa.

Frances Porter died at Ulverstone on 23 October 1924 aged 77 years.

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<sup>47</sup> The Argus (Melbourne): Friday 19 October 1866 pg 4.

# LEGITIMATE OFFSPRING

## **LOUISA GILLAM**, Daughter

Birth: ca Apr 1824 Place: Aldington, Kent, England?  
Baptism: 11 Apr 1824 Place: Aldington, Kent, England  
Death: 25 Jan 1848 Place: Westbury Age: 24  
Burial: 26 Jan 1848 Place: St Andrew's C.E., Westbury  
Occupation: Servant (1848)  
Residence: Wickford; Launceston; Westbury  
Father: THOMAS GILLAM (ca1803-1865)  
Mother: FRANCES FURNER (1796-1869)

Arrived Hobart Town 14 January 1829, free, per Harmony.

Witnesses to marriage were George McDonald and L. [or S] Dowsett. [RGD 787]

Cause of death was Fever. Informant of death was John Bishton, Chaplain, Westbury. Age given as 22 years [sic] [RGD 133]

**Spouse:** **WILLIAM RICHARD SNOOK**  
Birth: ca 1804 Place: Wiltshire  
Baptism: 8 Jun 1808 Place: Tisbury, Wiltshire Age: 4  
Death: 19 Jul 1852 Place: Westbury Age: 48  
Burial: 22 Jul 1852 Place: St Andrew's C.E., Westbury  
Occupation: Farmer (1841 1842 1847) Labourer (1844 1852)  
Father: HENRY SNOOK (ca 1771-1847)  
Mother: LAVINIA WIDDICOMBE (ca 1776-1846)

Marriage: 12 Oct 1840 Place: Longford Church, C.E.

Children: WILLIAM RICHARD (No known issue) (1841-1921)  
JAMES RICHARD (1842-1914)  
LOUISA (Died as a child) (1844-1847)  
THOMAS EDWARD (1847-1898)

Son of Henry Snook (b. ca1771 - buried 1847 Tisbury, Wiltshire) and Lavinia Widdicombe (buried Tisbury 1846) who were married at Tisbury on 5 September 1796. [Enid Woolley, *Kameruka*, Judbury 7109 2/2/1991] In the 1841 census for Tisbury Henry was a farmer living in Church Street, Wardour together with Lavinia and William Snook who was about 15 years of age and may have been a grandson.

Transported for machine breaking. Gaol report "unknown". Single. Hulk Report none. Stated this offence "machine breaking". Single. *Eliza* (2) Left Portsmouth 6 February 1831 and arrived Hobart Town 29 May 1831. [CON18/6 and CON 31/9]. Free Pardon No. 289 03 February 1836.

Free (1840)

Age at marriage given as 27 years and at death 48 years. [sic]

Farmer at Wickford, Norfolk Plains 1841.

Cause of death was inflammation of the lungs. Informant of death was George (x) Best, Undertaker, Westbury. Age given as 48 years [sic]. [RGD 83]

Louisa was the first child of Thomas and Frances Gillam and was baptised at Aldington, Kent on 11 April 1824, and born a little ahead of time it would seem.<sup>48</sup>

She married William Snook at Longford on 12 October 1840. William had been transported for 7 years, per the *Eliza*, in 1831, for machine breaking. They had four children, William, James, and Thomas and an unnamed daughter.

Louisa died at the young age of 24 years<sup>49</sup> in January 1848, of a fever. Her husband died from inflammation of the lungs in 1852, leaving a young family of boys, ranging in age from 11 years down to 5 years, whom one can only hope would have been cared for by Louisa's family. William was living at *Glenore* at the time of his death. He had led an exemplary life as a convict and had received a free pardon on 3 February 1836.<sup>50</sup>

The eldest son, William Richard, was born at *Wickford*, Norfolk Plains in 1841 and married Easter Hodgetts at River Leven in 1867. (His uncle George McDonald had been a witness at the marriage of Louisa and William Snook and may have taken the youngster in on the death of his father or he may have lived with his aunt and uncle Hogben who were also living at the Leven.) In 1872 William was at *Allwood*, Deloraine.

William and Easter had no children, and parted circa 1889, and rather naively William entered into a bigamous marriage in 1892 under an assumed name but was very quickly undone:<sup>51</sup>

*There was again a numerous attendance at our[Longford] police court this morning, the presiding magistrates being the Warden and Messrs R. Gould and E. H. Sutton, J.'sP. William Snooks, on remand for bigamy, charged with having married Elizabeth Causby at Longford on or about April 28, 1891, his wife Easter then being alive, was again brought up. James Hogben, of Sheffield, deposed to having been present on December 27, 1867, when the defendant was married to Easter Hodgetts by the Rev. W. Mathieson, Congregational minister, at the house of Mr Jenkins at Ulverstone, and was one of the witnesses to the marriage; he saw defendant's wife at Ulverstone last Wednesday; did not think they had been living on good terms for about four years. Constable D. Donovan gave evidence as to the arrest, and Mr Superintendent East produced the certificate of marriage from Hobart. The officiating minister at Longford also gave evidence to the effect that defendant gave his name to him as William Nugent Smith, and said twice that his wife had been dead three years. Defendant, after receiving the usual caution, stated that he told the minister "he had lost his wife three years ago," and did not say whether she was dead, alive, or anything else, and that when he left his wife she told him he could marry anybody he liked, and he gave her the same privilege. He was then committed for trial at the next sitting of the Supreme Court, the bench intimating that substantial bail would be taken for his appearance thereat if procurable.<sup>52</sup>*

An incredulous Judge treated him leniently and sentenced him to 12 months imprisonment.

James Richard, the second son, was born in Launceston in 1842. He married Annie Wilson at Deloraine in 1868 and raised ten children.

One of his daughters, Linda May, married William Henry (Harry) Thomas Coventry, chemist at Latrobe for many years. Harry was well known in football and cycling circles.

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<sup>48</sup> Mulvay, R.J. *Transcript of Aldington Parish Register*.

<sup>49</sup> Age given as 22 years on death certificate which is incorrect.

<sup>50</sup> AOT: CON31/39.

<sup>51</sup> AOT: CON 37/11 No. 6470; North West Post: 27 August 1892.

<sup>52</sup> Examiner: Saturday 23 July 1892 pg 2.

Thomas, the youngest son, was born at Westbury in 1847. He married Sarah Close at River Don in 1871 and they had seven children. Sarah was the eldest daughter of Thomas and Ann Close: born in Launceston, she came to The Don with her parents at the age of three years.<sup>53</sup>

Thomas Snooks worked at labouring jobs at the Don, Leven, Barrington, and Sheffield, and died in a mining accident at Zeehan in April 1898, aged 51 years. His widow, Sarah, died at Penguin on 1 October 1940, aged 91 years.

The unnamed Snooks daughter who was born at Launceston in 1844 was baptised Louisa, at St Andrews Church Westbury on 27 April 1845 and died in August 1847 aged 2½ years.

### THOMAS GILLAM, Son

Baptism:	12 Feb 1826	Place: Aldington, Kent, England
Death:	5 Jun 1854	Place: Westbury Age: 28
Burial:	11 Jun 1854	Place: St Andrew's C.E., Westbury
Residence:	29 Jan 1829	Place: VDL (1829) Place: Glenore (1854)
Occupation:	Farmer (1854)	
Father:	THOMAS GILLAM (ca1803-1865)	
Mother:	FRANCES FURNER (1796-1869)	

He arrived free Hobart Town 14 January 1829 per Harmony.

Burial date is 8 June 1854 in burial register. [C.E.]

Cause of death was Bilious Fever. Informant of death was George (x) Best, Undertaker, Westbury. [RGD 193]

"On Monday, the 5th inst., Thomas Gillam, aged 27 years, the beloved son of Mr Thomas Gillam, of Westbury... [Examiner 07 June 1854]

Died unmarried aged 28 years.

No known issue.

**U**ndisputed son of Thomas Gillam and his wife Frances, nee Furner! Thomas was baptised in the church at Aldington, Kent on 12 February 1826.<sup>54</sup> He was three years of age when he left England to join his father in Van Diemen's Land. No doubt it was a voyage fraught with danger for one so young.

He died at *Glenore* from a *bilious fever* on 5 June 1854 at the age of 28 years, unmarried. His occupation was given as farmer.

<sup>53</sup> Advocate: Tuesday 8 October 1940 pg 2.

<sup>54</sup> Mulvey, *Transcript of Aldington Parish Register*.

## **JOSEPH GILLAM, Son**

Birth: 7 Nov 1831 Place: Norfolk Plains  
Baptism: 8 Apr 1832 Place: Longford, C.E.  
Death: 10 Jun 1872 Place: Deloraine Age: 40  
Burial: 16 Jun 1872 Place: St Andrew's C.E., Westbury [Headstone]  
Occupation: Farmer (1853 1854 1855 1865) Publican (1869 1872)  
Residence: Westbury; Deloraine  
Residence: Marsh Paddock (1865)  
Father: THOMAS GILLAM (ca1803-1865)  
Mother: FRANCES FURNER (1796-1869)

Witnesses to marriage were Thomas Leith and Maria Gillam. Age at marriage given as 21 years, was a farmer, and free and single. [RGD 1056]

Cause of death was peritonitis. Informant of death was nephew, William Snookes, [sic] Allwood, nr Deloraine. [RGD 72]

See Examiner Thursday 13 June 1872 for death and funeral notice.

Died after a short illness of 5 days. No obituary found Examiner or Cornwall Chronicle.

Burial date given as 13 June 1872 in Burial Register. [C.E.]

### **Spouse: ELIZA SODEN**

Birth: ca Jun 1837 Place: Launceston  
Baptism: 5 Jul 1837 Place: St John's C.E., Launceston  
Death: 17 Mar 1928 Place: Deloraine Age: 90  
Burial: 19 Mar 1928 Place: Westbury General Cemetery [Headstone]  
Father: FREDERICK SODEN  
Mother: MARY ANN HOLLAND  
Marriage: 21 Sep 1853 Place: St John's Church, Launceston, C.E., by Banns

Banns of marriage published 4, 11, and 18 September 1853. [St John's C.E. Banns Register 1853] Age at marriage given as 17 years, was free and single. [RGD 1056]

Married secondly, William Fawkner [or Faulkner] at C.E. Deloraine 6 August 1873. License to Marry NS 373/3 No. 3889. Witnesses were Laura Jackson and James G. Holliday.

Children: THOMAS (1854-1927)

**J**oseph and his brother Israel were twins (the first of many in our various tribes). They were born at Norfolk Plains on 7 November 1831 and baptised in April 1832.

Both young men farmed in the Westbury district.

In September 1853 Joseph married Eliza Soden daughter of Frederick and Mary Soden, at St John's church in Launceston in the presence of his sister, Maria Gillam and his brother-in-law, Thomas Leith. From 1862 until his death in 1872 Joseph was licensee of the Commercial and Family Hotel on the Emu Bay Road at Deloraine.<sup>55</sup> He died from peritonitis on 10 June and was buried at Westbury six days later. Eliza kept the hotel licence for a short time but the licensee was Samuel Garret in 1874.

The widowed Eliza married William Fawkner (or Faulkner), a cooper, at Deloraine in 1873, and died at the age of 90 in March 1928.

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<sup>55</sup> Weekly Courier: 30 July 1925.

Joseph and Eliza had one child, a son Thomas, born in 1854.

This Thomas married Christina Winch at the Wesleyan Church at Exton on 31 December 1874, and they had fifteen children. He joined the Police force in 1883 and served at Westbury, Deloraine, Oatlands, Launceston, and Sheffield.

Thomas died at Deloraine on 18 August 1927, and Christina died 11 June 1950.

## **ISRAEL GILLAM, Son**

Birth: 7 Nov 1831 Place: Norfolk Plains  
Baptism: 8 Apr 1832 Place: Longford, C.E.  
Death: 20 Aug 1906 Place: Residence, Black Hills, Westbury Age: 74  
Burial: 23 Aug 1906 Place: St Andrew's C.E., Westbury  
Occupation: Farmer (1856 1859 1861 1865 1867 1876 1880 1883 1884 1894 1905 1906)  
Residence: Cluan (1859) Glenore (1861)  
Residence: West Ham (1865)  
Residence: Black Hills (1867, 1876, 1877, 1885)  
Residence: Pensioners Bush, Westbury (1880)  
Father: THOMAS GILLAM (ca1803-1865)  
Mother: FRANCES FURNER (1796-1869)

License to marry Susannah Oakley at St Andrews, Westbury 7 April 1856 [NS 373/2 No 1601]

Full age at marriage. [24 years.] Bride was a minor [aged 17 years]. Witnesses to marriage were Catherine and Thomas Leith. [RGD 900]

Left will. Executors Joseph and Albert Gillam. Farm at Black Hills, 155 acres, left equally to George, John Thomas, Joseph, Albert, Walter and Edith Frances. [Lands Dept 33/4797]

Informant of death was A. Gillam, son, Westbury. [Westbury Council Register and Weekly Courier 25 August 1906 p25]

### **Spouse: SUSANNAH OAKLEY**

Birth: 22 Dec 1838 Place: Bodney, Norfolk, England  
Death: 12 Sep 1900 Place: Westbury, Age: 61  
Burial: 15 Sep 1900 Place: St Andrew's C.E., Westbury  
Occupation: Domestic Servant (1855)  
Father: JUDD OAKLEY (ca1815-1885)  
Mother: ANN SHIPP (ca1815-1852)  
Marriage: 9 Apr 1856 Place: St Andrew's Church, Westbury, C.E., by Lic.

Children: WILLIAM JOSEPH (Died as a child) (1857-1867)  
HENRY GEORGE (Died as a child) (1859-1867)  
CHARLES ARTHUR (Died as an infant) (1861-1861)  
EDWARD (Died as an infant) (1862-1864)  
GEORGE (1865-1945)  
JOHN THOMAS (1867-1940)  
ALFRED ERNEST (Died as a child) (1870-1876)  
WALTER (1872-1944)  
JOSEPH (1874-1951)  
JAMES (1877-1899)  
ALBERT G. [Ab] (1879-1956)  
ELIZABETH SUSANNA (Died as an infant) (1883-1884)  
EDITH FRANCES (1885-1966)

**F**amiliarly known as *Farmer Gillam*, Joseph's twin Israel was a successful farmer, a tenant for many years at Glenore and Cluan and finally owning his own property at Black Hills.<sup>56</sup> He married Susannah Oakley at St Andrews Church, Westbury on 9 April 1856.

His sister Catherine Leith and her husband Thomas acted as witnesses to the event. The bride had only been resident in the colony twelve months, having arrived with her father Judd Oakley and various siblings in the ship *Whirlwind* in 1855.

They had a family of 13 children, six of whom died in childhood, a seventh dying in his early twenties. Israel died on 20 August 1906, Susannah on 12 September 1900.

A little of his life and character is revealed in the following obituary:

*On Monday evening, 20th inst., Mr. Israel Gillam, of the Black Hills, Westbury, passed away, after an illness of about eight weeks. The deceased, who was third and a twin son of the late Mr. Thomas Gillam, was a native of Tasmania, and 75 years old. He came into the Westbury district when only five years of age, and remained a resident up to the time of his death. The deceased was always engaged in farming pursuits, and hence he was familiarly known as Farmer Gillam. Although of a retiring disposition, he had many friends, and no enemies. Everyone had a good word for Farmer Gillam, who was much admired for his straightforwardness and honesty of purpose. Much sympathy is felt for the bereaved family. His wife, who was a daughter of the late Mr. Judd Oakley, pre-deceased him about six years. The family consisted of fourteen children, eight of whom are dead, leaving five sons and one daughter all grown up. The deceased at one time resided on the farm now owned and occupied by Mr. Lockhart. He subsequently had Tilina, both of which are in the Westbury district. About 36 years ago he removed to the Black Hills, where he remained to the end. The name of Gillam was well known throughout the North of Tasmania. The original family comprised five sons—William, James, Joseph, Israel, and Edward—all of whom have now passed away. Two daughters remain—Mrs. Brown, of Westbury; and Mrs. Dawson, of St. Mary's district.*<sup>57</sup>

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<sup>56</sup> Examiner: 22 August 1906 pg 6 c2; Weekly Courier 25 August 1906.

<sup>57</sup> The Mercury Thursday 23 August 1906 pg 8.

## CATHERINE GILLAM, Daughter

Birth: 8 Nov 1833 Place: Norfolk Plains  
Baptism: 13 Apr 1834 Place: Green Ponds C.E.  
Death: 5 Nov 1903 Place: General Hospital, Launceston Age: 69  
Burial: 7 Nov 1903 Place: Carrick Cemetery [Headstone]  
Occupation: Publican; Midwife (Nurse)  
Father: THOMAS GILLAM (ca1803-1865)  
Mother: FRANCES FURNER (1796-1869)

For birth see Baptism Green Ponds C.E. Register. Parents were Thomas and Frances Gilham, Norfolk Plains. Baptised by R.C. Drought, Chaplain. [RGD 5899]

Stated she was a spinster aged 19 years at time of marriage. Witnesses to marriage were Thomas Gillam and Joseph Gillam. [RGD 989]

Property: Owner/Occupier of Cottage, garden, etc., South Street, Carrick 1890. [HTG 26 August 1890 p1308] Death: Cause of death was cirrhosis of liver and heart failure. Informant of death was Jane Doolan, Undertaker, Launceston. [RGD] See Examiner 6 November 1903 for death notice.

See her Will dated 3 August 1903. [Lands Dept 33/4382]

### Spouse: THOMAS LEITH,

Birth: 25 Sep 1826 Place: Westbury  
Baptism: 18 Feb 1832 Place: Norfolk Plains, C.E. Age: 5  
Death: Jul 1904 Place: Hobart Age: 77  
Burial: 9 Jul 1904 Place: Cornelian Bay Cemetery, Hobart  
Occupation: Settler (1851) Farmer (Glenore); Publican (Carrick)  
Residence: Glenore; Westbury (1858) Carrick (1867-1870)  
Occupation: Farmer (1865)  
Father: WILLIAM ELLIOTT LEITH (ca1773-1852)  
Mother: ALICE ROBSON (ca1797-1889)  
Marriage: 24 Dec 1851 Place: St Andrew's C.E., Westbury, by Banns

Stated he was a settler aged 25 years at time of marriage. Witnesses to marriage were Thomas Gillam and Joseph Gillam. [RGD 989]

1858 Land, Moore Street, Westbury, 13 acres Owned/Occupied by John and Thomas Leith. [HTG Tuesday 11 May 1858 Valuation Roll for District of Westbury p642]

License for the Prince of Wales Hotel, Carrick transfer from Daniel Rolf November 1866. [Examiner Saturday 24 November 1866]

Licensee of the Prince of Wales Hotel, Carrick 1867-1870.

In March 1872 he retired as a trustee of the Carrick Road Trust, having been elected in February 1869. [Examiner Tuesday 26 March 1872]

1890 erased as occupier of the Prince of Wales Hotel, Carrick, ½ acre, capital value £600, annual value £50. Owner George Spencer, Carrick. [HTG Tuesday 26 August 1890 p1307]

Property: Last known reference is sale of land at Carrick in 1894.

Death not yet confirmed. Age matches. Buried Cornelian Bay Cemetery Pauper Section B51.

No children.

Catherine Gillam was born at Norfolk Plains on 8 November 1833, and her baptism on 13 April 1834 is recorded in the Church of England Baptism Register for Green Ponds! She married Thomas Leith at the Anglican Church Westbury on Christmas Eve, 1851. Her husband Thomas Leith, who gave his occupation as “settler,” was a son of William Elliott Leith and Alice Blackstone. Her brothers, Thomas and Joseph, were witnesses. Catherine and Thomas had no children.

During the years 1862–1864 they ran a shop in Westbury at various locations. For about seven years (1867–1873) Thomas was licensee of the *Prince of Wales Hotel* at Carrick which was owned by his wife in 1874. Catherine was midwife for the district.

Ivy Blazeley, in *Tasmanian Village A Story of Carrick* writes of being cared for by Mrs Leith and recalls that she was almost as big as her brother *Whopper* [Edward] Gillam.

Thomas Leith was a tenant of William Bryan of *Glenore* in 1855 on his return from Victoria.<sup>58</sup> [Thomas and his brother John Leith (who married Elizabeth McDonald joined the rush of Tasmanians to Victoria in March 1852 following the discovery of gold there.)

Catherine died on 5 November 1903. Cause of death was cirrhosis of the liver and heart failure.



### **Prince of Wales Hotel, 1972**

Photo: Author's collection

*The well known hotel at Carrick, the Prince of Wales, now occupied by Mr. Thos. Leith, at a rental of £100 per annum. The house, substantially built of brick, contains sixteen rooms. There is also a good cellar, 8-stall stone stable with loft, wooden, stable with accommodation for 30 horses, large shed, skittle alley, butcher's shop, &c. The land comprises an area of 2 roods and 38 perches. At this house the Deloraine coach horses stand, and it is now doing the best ready-money trade of any house in Carrick.*<sup>59</sup>

<sup>58</sup> HTG: Jurors List 4 September 1855 pg 970.

<sup>59</sup> Examiner: Saturday 25 December 1869 pg 6.

## **EDWARD [Whopper] GILLAM, Son**

Birth: 25 Dec 1835 Place: Norfolk Plains?  
Baptism: 7 Feb 1836 Place: Longford, C.E.  
Death: 23 Feb 1900 Place: Carrick Age: 64  
Burial: 25 Feb 1900 Place: St Andrew's, C.E., Carrick [Headstone]  
Occupation: Farmer (1856 1862 1864 1875)  
Residence: Westbury (1862 1864) Sillwood (1875 1879) Carrick  
Father: THOMAS GILLAM (~1803-1865)  
Mother: FRANCES FURNER (1796-1869)

For baptism see RGD 7363. See Marriage License NS 373/2 No. 1695 for license to marry at St Andrews, Carrick [sic]. Witnesses to the marriage were Thomas Leith and Thomas Beams. Name written as Guillam. Gave age as 21 years. [RGD 743]

1858 Farm, Marsh Paddock, Exton, 97 acres. Owned by John Field, Calstock. [HTG Tuesday 11 May 1858 Valuation Roll for District of Westbury p641]

Death was due to a fall from a cart, while under the influence of alcohol, causing Compression of brain. [RGD] "Last evening Mr Edward Gilham [sic] was driving home from Westbury sale with his son, when they were thrown from the buggy about 1/2 mile from Hagley. Mr Gilham sustained concussion of the brain, and died today about 5 p.m. from the effects." [Examiner 24 February 1900 p7 c5]

Check Zeehan and Dundas Herald for Letters of Administration to Dinah Mary Gillam £313.

### **Spouse: DINAH MARY BEAMS**

Birth: 20 Oct 1837 Place: Cummings Folly  
Baptism: 23 Jan 1839 Place: St John's C.E., Launceston Age: 1  
Death: 10 Jul 1927 Place: Residence, Carrick Age: 89  
Burial: 12 Jul 1927 Place: St Andrew's C.E., Carrick [Headstone]  
Father: THOMAS GREGORY BEAMS [or BEAMES]  
Mother: MARY PEASE [or PEARSE] alias Morgan  
Marriage: 8 Oct 1856 Place: St Andrew's, C.E., Hadspen, by Lic.

Children: MARGARET ELLEN (1860-1940)  
MARY (ca1861-1933)  
WALTER EDWARD (1862-1952)  
RACHAEL [Florence] ELIZABETH (1864-1949)  
ARTHUR THOMAS (1866-1916)  
MARTHA MARIA (1869-1954)  
KATHERINE ANNETTE (1871-1959)  
ALBERT HENRY (Died as an infant) (1875-1875)  
EDWARD (1876-)  
GEORGE SILLWOOD (1879-1926)

**E**dward *Whopper* Gillam, erroneously called Thomas in *Tasmanian Village*, was born on Christmas Day 1835 and baptised the following February.

He married Dinah Mary Beams at St Andrews Church, Hadspen on 8 October 1856 at the age of twenty. Thomas Leith and Thomas Beams acted as witnesses. Dinah was born at Cummings Folly on 20 October 1837 and was a daughter of an early settler, Thomas Beames [sic], and his wife Mary Pearse.

Edward appears in the Westbury Valuation Roll for 1858 as a tenant of John Field of *Calstock*, occupying a 97-acre farm at Marsh Paddock.<sup>60</sup> Dinah and Edward, at one time, lived in a cottage on the side of the hill near the bridge at Carrick (now part of the *Armidale* property).<sup>61</sup>

If Dinah's obituary is to be believed they had more than the eight children who were registered. She was 18 years old when she married, and was about 22 years old when Margaret Ellen was born ca 1860. Margaret was unregistered. She was followed by another unregistered daughter, Mary Francis, born sometime between Margaret and Walter Edward who was born, and registered, in 1862.

Eleanor Grace Gillam is listed as a married daughter in the obituary. I may be wrong but, as she was not registered as Eleanor Grace Gillam, it seems more probable that she was the daughter of Henry Walmsley and Jane Smillie. Eleanor, who was married to Chester Edwards in 1901 as Walmsley, used the name Smillie when naming one of her children. For some obscure reason she also used the surname Leith, and Leith is a family name of ours. Eleanor was born posthumously and may have been fostered-out to the Gillams. The unregistered Mary Frances Gillam had a child to a young man named William Sullivan when she was 16 years of age. This child was a son, William Albert Gillam, who was born at Westbury in 1877. Edward and Dinah probably raised him as their son. This William worked at the Mount Lyell mine, Rosebery at the time of the great fire and his heroic efforts saved many lives.<sup>62</sup> A sergeant in the 12th Battalion, he was killed in action at Gallipoli on 25 June 1915. His sacrifice is recorded on the headstone of Edward and Dinah together with the death of their son George. William's relationship is not noted.

Mary also had an illegitimate daughter, Ada, born at Hagley in 1883.

Mary Gillam eventually married Andrew Anderson in 1887 but their marriage certificate gives no clues.

Of Edward and Dinah's registered children, two (Martha and George), married into the Crawford family, one, Walter Edward, married his cousin, Amelia Haydon (grand-daughter of Frances Hogben), and one married Henry Turner. A son of the Turner marriage, Mont Turner, was renowned for his knowledge of native animals, and kept a zoo at Westbury.

The last three of Edward and Dinah's children were born on the *Sillwood* estate, where Edward was farming, between the years 1875 and 1879.

Edward died late in the afternoon of 23 February 1900 as a result of a fall from a cart on his way home to Hagley from the Westbury Sale, sustaining injury to his brain as a result of the fall.<sup>63</sup>

Dinah died on 10 July 1927.<sup>64</sup> Both are buried in the churchyard of the old Anglican Church at Carrick.

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<sup>60</sup> HTG: Valuation Roll for the District of Westbury 11 May 1858 pg 641.

<sup>61</sup> Wishaw, M.K. 1963, *Tasmanian Village, A Story of Carrick*.

<sup>62</sup> Examiner: 11 July 1927 and 15 July 1927 pg 6.

<sup>63</sup> Examiner: 24 February 1900 pg 7 c5.

<sup>64</sup> Examiner: 15 July 1927 pg 6.

**MARIA GILLAM**, Daughter

Birth: 9 Feb 1838 Place: Westbury  
Baptism: 16 Sep 1838 Place: Longford, C.E.  
Death: 14 Jan 1911 Place: Westbury Age: 72  
Burial: 16 Jan 1911 Place: St Andrew's C.E., Westbury  
Occupation: Farmer's daughter (1854) Licensed Victualler (1887)  
Residence: Westbury (1867 1873)  
Father: THOMAS GILLAM (~1803-1865)  
Mother: FRANCES FURNER (1796-1869)

For birth registration see Baptism. Daughter of Thomas and Frances Gilham, Westbury, farmer. [RGD 9122]

License to marry John Taylor at St Andrews, Westbury 13 September 1854. [NS 373/1 No. 1244]

Age at death given as 74 years.

Widow of late Laurence Burnes [sic]. Two sons and one daughter living at time of death.

Cause of death was Bright's disease and heart failure. Coroner's inquest held at Westbury by D. Burke, Esq. 14 January 1911. Informant of death was L. Jordan, Undertaker, Westbury. [RGD 887]

**Spouse 1: JOHN TAYLOR**

Birth: ca 1832 Place: .....  
Death: 3 Sep 1873 Place: *Thumpup*, Westbury Age: 41  
Occupation: Farmer (1854 1867 1873)  
Marriage: 13 Sep 1854 Place: St Andrew's Church, Westbury, C.E., by Lic.

A farmer, of full age, at time of marriage. Wife Maria Gillam a minor. Witnesses to marriage were James and Frances (x) Hogben. [RGD 1344]

Children: JOHN (1867-1924)  
THOMAS GILLAM (1873-)

**Spouse 2: WILLIAM BAILEY**

Birth: ca 1827 Place: Kent, England  
Death: 22 Jul 1885 Place: Westbury Age: 58  
Burial: 24 Jul 1885 Place: St Andrew's C.E., Westbury  
Occupation: Carpenter (1874 1877 1885) Undertaker  
Father: JOHN BAILEY  
Mother: CATHERINE RICHARDS  
Marriage: 7 Jul 1874 Place: St Mary's, C.E., Hagley (Quamby)

Children: EMILY MARIA (1877-1936)

**Spouse 3: LAURENCE BURNS [or BURNES]**

Birth: ca 1831 Place: .....  
Death: 24 May 1909 Place: Westbury, Age: 78  
Occupation: Labourer (1887)  
Marriage: 30 Jun 1887 Place: Catholic Church, Deloraine, by Lic

No issue.

**M**aria Gillam was born at Westbury in 1838. On 13 September 1854 she married (at the age of sixteen) a farmer, John Taylor, at St Andrew's Church, Westbury. Her half-sister, Frances Hogben, and brother-in-law, James Hogben were witnesses.

Maria and John Taylor had two children (but not until 13 years of marriage): John, who was born Christmas Eve 1867; and Thomas Gillam Taylor who was born posthumously on 19 November 1873.

On 3 September 1873 a John Taylor of *Thumpup* died of burns:

*A fatal case of burning occurred to a small farmer named John Taylor, residing at Thumpup near Westbury, on Thursday evening last. It appears that Taylor was subject to fits, and it is supposed that on the evening named he was smoking his pipe in bed, when he was suddenly attacked by one of them, and thus unconsciously set fire to the bed clothes. Mrs Taylor, who slept in a separate room, on discovering the accident immediately gave the alarm, and Dr M'Creery was shortly in attendance, but the injuries received were so serious that Taylor after lingering a short time expired.*<sup>65</sup>



**Thumpup Farm, Westbury**

*Photo courtesy late Max Frost*

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<sup>65</sup> Examiner: 9 September 1873 pg 2 c6.

The Valuation Rolls for Westbury in 1872 show a John Taylor as owner/occupier of a 32-acre farm in Moore Street and Maria Taylor as the owner of twelve acres in Jones Street. In 1874 Maria, Mrs John Taylor is owner/occupier of both properties.

In July 1874, Maria married William Bailey (who was the informant of the death of the above John Taylor), at St Mary's, Quamby [Hagley]. William was a widower, and they had one child, Emily Maria in April 1877.

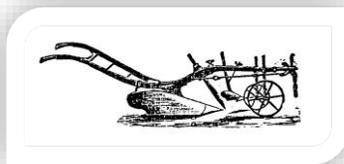
At the Deloraine quarterly licensing meeting of April 1887 a Maria Bailey became the licensee of the Plough Inn at Alveston and in July of the same year she transferred the licence to Laurence Burn or Barnes.<sup>66</sup>

A William Bailey died at Westbury in July 1885 and he is presumably Maria's husband as she married, thirdly, in June 1887, a labourer named Laurence Burns. The couple were married in the Catholic Church at Deloraine. One of the witnesses was her sister-in-law, Eliza Fawkner, widow of Joseph Gillam. Burns is presumably the licensee of the Plough Inn. Mr Burns died in 1909.

*The funeral of the late Mr. Lawrence Burns, which took place on Monday, at Westbury, was fairly well attended. The service was conducted in the Catholic Church and at the grave by the Rev. Father Kelsh. Deceased, who was 83 years of age, was a native of Ireland, and landed in Tasmania about the year 1848. Almost immediately upon, his arrival in the colony he settled down in the Westbury district, where he remained. He was therefore a resident of about 60 years. For the greater part of that time he followed farming pursuits. He was well known and highly respected by all. He leaves a widow to mourn her loss.*<sup>67</sup>

Maria died a widow at Westbury in January 1911:

*Sudden death Westbury, Saturday. Mrs. Burns, relict of the late Laurence Burns, died suddenly at the house of Mr. Jesse Beward, Westbury, on Saturday morning about 9 o'clock. In the afternoon an inquest was held before the coroner, Mr. D. Burke, & verdict was returned in accordance with medical evidence, that the cause of death was Bright's disease and heart failure.*<sup>68</sup>



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<sup>66</sup> Examiner: Monday 25 April 1887 pg 1; Friday 22 July 1887 pg 1; Tuesday 2 August 1887 pg 3.

<sup>67</sup> Examiner: Thursday 27 May 1909 pg 5.

<sup>68</sup> Examiner: Monday 16 January 1911 pg 4.

**ELIZABETH SUSAN GILLAM**, Daughter

Birth: 21 May 1843 Place: Launceston [or Glenore]  
Baptism: 30 Jul 1843 Place: St Andrew's C.E., Westbury  
Death: 19 Jun 1926 Place: Residence of son, W. Dawson, Cornwall Age: 83  
Burial: 20 Jun 1926 Place: Cemetery, Gray  
Occupation: No occupation (1864)  
Residence: Cornwall, Tasmania (1926)  
Father: THOMAS GILLAM (~1803-1865)  
Mother: FRANCES FURNER (1796-1869)

Informant of birth was Wm Archer, Launceston. [RGD 1527]

Witnesses to marriage were Emma Dawson, Matilda Jenkin, and Thomas Leith. Name written Guillam but signed Gillam. Gave her age as 21 years. [RGD 405]

For Burial see Cullenswood, Cornwall, C.E. Register entry No. 138. Age given as 86 years.

"On Saturday night, at the residence of her son, Mr. W. Dawson Cornwall, the death occurred of Mrs. Elizabeth Susan Dawson, widow of Mr. Alfred Dawson of Westbury. Deceased, who was 85 years of age, was the youngest daughter of the late Mr. Thomas Gillam, of Glencoe, [sic] and most of her life was spent in the Westbury and Glencoe [sic] district, and part in the St. Marys district. She had been in indifferent health for the past 12 months. The interment took place on Sunday in the Gray Cemetery. The chief mourners were Messrs. Alf. and Walter Dawson (sons), and the grandchildren. The pallbearers were Messrs. J. Harvey, E. Haas, J. Harvey and D. Ford. The funeral service was conducted by Rev. B. Hammond, of Cullenswood. Deceased leaves one daughter and two sons." [Examiner Tuesday 22 June 1926]

**Spouse: ALFRED DAWSON**

Birth: ca 1838 Place: .....  
Death: 22 Jul 1878 Place: Westbury Age: 40  
Burial: 27 Jul 1878 Place: St Andrew's C.E., Westbury  
Occupation: Farmer (1864) Labourer (1878)

Marriage: 30 Mar 1864 Place: St John's Church, Launceston, C.E., by Lic.

Children: HARRIET CHARLOTTE [Harriett Frances] (1865-1920)  
WALTER WILLIAM (1866-1934)  
CATHERINE ELLEN EVA (1868-1951)  
ALFRED ERNEST ALBERT (1871-1950)  
THOMAS EDWARD JOSEPH (1876-1968)

Born circa 1838 - 1842.

His age at marriage given as 22 years [born ca 1842]

Death of 1878 not fully confirmed as that of the husband of Elizabeth Susan Gillam.

Cause of death was ossification of the aortic valve of the heart. Informant of death was John Peyton Jones, Coroner, Westbury. Age at death given as 40 years. [RGD 703]

Inquest held at house of Denis Shanahan (Western Railway and Commercial Hotel, Westbury) 23 July 1878. "came by his death ...of natural causes, to wit disease of the heart ..." [SC195/59 No. 7988]

The youngest of the children of Thomas and Frances, Elizabeth Susan was born 21 May 1843 at *Glenore*. At the age of twenty she married Alfred Dawson, a farmer, at St John's Church, Launceston. This was on 30 March 1864. Elizabeth's brother-in-law, Thomas Leith, was one of the witnesses.

They had five children, Harriett Charlotte (1865), Walter William (1866), Catherine Ellen Eva (1868), Alfred (1871), and Thomas (1876).

Walter William married Gertrude Ursula Frost in Westbury on 29 August 1894, and died on 11 April 1934. Gertrude is the child said to have been raised by William Newman Furner Gillam. Walter and Gertrude had ten children including twins, Charles and Walter. Their eldest daughter, Amelia Eliza Rebecca, married her cousin Allan Gillam in 1918.

Thomas Dawson's wife, Lucy Harriet Gurr, had three sets of twins amongst her eighteen known children.

Elizabeth was widowed in July 1878 and died at Gray on the East Coast in 1926. Her husband, Alfred, had died in 1878:

*An inquest was held at the Western Railway Hotel to-day, before J. P. Jones, Esq., Coroner, and a jury of seven, of which Mr James Halliday was foreman, upon the body of a man named Alfred Dawson, who was found dead near the railway station yesterday morning. From the evidence it appeared that the man —who has been partially paralysed for the last ten years —was seen yesterday morning about 10 o'clock driving a horse, and about an hour afterwards was seen lying dead at the side of the road. A number of dried herbs, with a prescription from a Mrs Armstrong of Melbourne, were produced, but it appeared that Dawson had not taken any of them. Dr Allnutt made a post mortem examination, and found that the cause of death was disease of the heart. The jury returned a verdict accordingly. July 23.*<sup>69</sup>

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<sup>69</sup> Examiner: Wednesday 24 July 1878 pg 3.