

John Clark(e)

Born: 1765, Derbyshire, England
Description: Age 33
Religion: Not stated, likely Protestant
Marital Status: Married, with at least 2 children
Occupation: Fettler (someone who keeps things in good order (to fettle))
Crime: Sheep stealing
Trial: Derby Spring Assizes; 13 Mar 1802.
Imprisonment: Derby; hulks at Langstone (Portsmouth); received 24 May 1802
Sentence: His death sentence was commuted to transportation for life.
Ship: *HMS Calcutta; Ocean*
On Board: Capt. Dan Woodriff RN, 299 males convicts
Anchored: Spithead (Portsmouth), Hampshire
Departure: 24 Apr 1803
Arrival: 9 Oct 1803, Port Phillip Bay; 11 Feb 1804, Derwent River, VDL
Route: Tenerife, Rio de Janeiro, Cape Horn, 168 days (5.5 months)
Death: 25 Jan 1853, Rosewood Cottage, Tea Tree, Tasmania.

He was tried at Derby Spring Assizes (Derby G.D.) on 13 Mar 1802 for sheep stealing and sentenced to death by Baron Graham. This sentence was reprieved, and he was transported for life. He was gaoled at Derby and then transferred to the hulks at Langstone.

He attended the Hobart musters in 1811, 1818 and 1819 and received a conditional pardon in 1813, and a grant of 60 acres in the district of Drummond in 1817. He also had a grazing licence on the Spring Hill run in 1819. He was supplying the Commissariat with large amounts of wheat by 1818 and 100lbs of meat by 1820.

In 1821, John Clark, described as a fettler at Tea Tree Brush, gave evidence against Michael Riley and others for robbing his house and putting him in fear. He was also the victim of sheep stealing, and two separate attempts of forgery using Clark's name in 1822. These were risky times for isolated farmers.

Bushrangers from the Green Ponds area, headed by Martin Cash, raided Clark's house over Christmas 1825. By 1826 Clark was a very successful farmer and the Land Commissioners stayed for 4 nights on the farm which had they found held a good deal of wheat, a very good slatted stable and about 1000 sheep.

He continued to increase his land holdings until 1842 when he had a total of 1250 acres at Tea Tree. Rosewood Cottage was built in 1824 and stayed in the family until 1888 when it was sold after the death of son-in-law Henry Phillips (*Dromedary*, 1820).

Although his wife did not come to Australia, his daughter Mary Lowen joined him with her daughter Elizabeth in 1826. Mary subsequently had several children with Henry Phillips, and they married in 1841, soon after the death of Mary's first husband Thomas Lowen in Nottingham.

He died on 25 Jan 1853, aged 88, at his home at Tea Tree and is buried at St Marks, Pontville.