

# Henry Phillips

Born:	c. 1795, Hampshire, England
Description:	Aged 24, 5'7½", Brown hair, Hazel eyes, scar left eyebrow
Marital Status:	Single
Occupation:	Farm labourer
Religion:	Not stated, likely Protestant
Crime:	Sheep stealing (killing a sheep)
Trial:	Berkshire Lent Assizes, 1 Mar 1819
Imprisonment:	Reading (Berkshire); Prison hulk <i>Laurel</i> (Portsmouth)
Sentence:	Transportation – 7 years
Ship:	<i>Dromedary</i>
On Board:	Capt. Richard Skinner RN, Surgeon George Fairfowl, 369 male convicts
Anchored:	Not stated, likely Portsmouth
Departure:	11 Sep 1819
Arrival:	10 Jan 1820
Route:	Direct, 121 days (4 months)
Ticket of Leave:	3 Mar 1826
Free Pardon:	8 Mar 1826 (Free by servitude – 7 years)
Death:	23 Jun 1888, Rosewood, Tea Tree, Tasmania

Very little is known about Henry's pre convict days. He was freed by servitude after 7 years and by 1828 had formed a lifelong relationship with Mary Lowen, daughter of friend and neighbour John Clark of Rosewood, Tea Tree.

He was assigned to Joseph Johnson at Tea Tree Brush when he first arrived and appears he stayed in the area, becoming friends with John Clark and later marrying his daughter.

Mary had emigrated to VDL in 1826 after her husband Thomas had deserted her. Henry and Mary had several children between 1828 and 1841 and suffered their fair share of losses. Their four surviving children were: Frederick Lowen (aka Phillips) born 1828, William born 1832, Anne born 1835 and Henry Arthur (Jeremiah) in 1841.

Henry and Mary married on 6 November 1841 at the Castle Inn at Pontville. Mary's first husband, Thomas Lowen, had joined the army in 1825 and was sent to the East Indies until 1838. He died in May 1841 in Nottingham and when the news of his death reached Mary she was able to marry her beloved Henry.

Mary died in 1863 and Henry in 1888, both at Rosewood, Tea Tree. His age was stated as 98 however it is more likely to be 93 as his YOB has been consistently recorded as 1795. Still, that's an extraordinary age for the time. They are buried at St Marks at Pontville.

Author, Maree Da Costa, 2023