

William Poultney

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| Born: | 1795, St Peter, Droitwich, Worcestershire |
| Description: | Number 239, 25 years, 5'6", light brown hair, grey eyes, impediment of speech |
| Aliases: | Poney, Powney |
| Marital Status: | Recorded as a widower at time of marriage in 1835 |
| Occupation: | Farm labourer |
| Religion: | Not stated, likely Protestant |
| Crime: | Burglary, stealing bacon and wearing apparel |
| Trial: | Worcester Assizes, 8 Aug 1821 |
| Imprisonment: | Prison hulk <i>Justitia</i> , Woolwich, Kent |
| Sentence: | Transportation for life |
| Ship: | <i>Prince of Orange</i> |
| On Board: | Capt. John Moncrief, Surgeon John Crocket, 132 male convicts |
| Departure: | 1 Apr 1822 |
| Arrival: | 23 Jul 1822 |
| Route: | Direct, 113 days (3.5 months) |
| Condition Pardon: | 20 Feb 1836 no 811 |
| Free Pardon: | 13 Jul 1841 no. 587 |
| Death: | 23 Oct 1854, Hamilton, Tasmania |

Little is known about William's pre convict life. On arrival in Tasmania, he would have spent time on the gangs before being sent to Maria Island in 1825, where he was charged with refusing to work and inciting a mutiny. The sentence was remitted by Gov. Arthur however William's problems continued with neglect of duty, insolence and being absent for which he received 50 lashes and was returned to his master.

He married his first wife, Charlotte Holland (*Providence 2*) in 1835, they had a son Henry born 1833 and Charlotte died in 1838 at Mr Kerr's farm at Hamilton. William is recorded as being a widower so he may have been married in England. He then married Margaret Robertson (*Nautilus*) who was assigned to Mr Kerr. They married in 1841 and William received his free pardon soon after, so the family left Mr Kerr's farm and moved into the village of Hamilton, where William was a labourer and then a carrier.

Five children were born to the couple. Their first daughter was born in 1840, and the informant was J F F Kerr, of Hamilton. William himself was the informant for the next four children. When the youngest child was born in 1850, William's occupation was a carrier. Hamilton was a transport hub and work as a carrier would have been plentiful.

William died in 1854 of rheumatic fever aged 58, followed a year later by Margaret of consumption. They left 6 children, two sons and four daughters, aged between 22 and 5. There are numerous descendants, but none named Poultney.

Author, Maree Da Costa, 2023