

## Grittleton Born Man First to Marry in Van Diemen's Land (Tasmania)

William Gingel was baptised at Grittleton on 4th October 1778 with his sister Mary. Their parents were Walter and Ruth Gingel (nee Wheeler) who were married at Kington Langley in 1756.

In 1798, aged just 19 William enlisted into the Royal Marines at Bradford under the name of Gangell. He left England in April 1803 with Lieutenant Governor Collins as part of a settlement group heading for Sullivan's Bay (now Sorrento, Victoria) in Port Phillip Bay in an attempt to stop French settlement of the area. The settlement attempt failed and the party of convicts, guards, free settlers and officials moved to Sullivan's Cove (now Hobart) in February 1804. The party included John and Ann Skelhorn and daughter Mary. John died not long after arriving at Sullivan's Bay in October 1803 and Corporal William Gangell was billeted with Ann Skelhorn and her daughter just a week after John's death.

On Sunday 18th March 1804 Reverend Robert Knopwood recorded the first marriage in the new settlement - that of Mrs. Ann Skelhorn to Corporal Gangell of the Royal Marines. By November 1805 William had been promoted to Sergeant and was discharged from military service in October 1812 when he settled in New South Wales - this could mean he remained in Tasmania since it was administered from New South Wales at that time.

William's marriage to Ann produced five children William Henry, James, Dorothy Elizabeth Ann or Hannah Grace and Sarah Ruth. Ann died in 1816. William went on to supply wheat and meat to the authorities and is recorded as occupying 210 acres of land in 1817 at Clarence Plains (Rokeby).

William married for a second time - this time to a convict girl named Mary Lee or Leigh who was transported from her home in Manchester, England. They had a very large family John, Jacob, Mary Ann, Jane, Alice, Sarah Ann, Charles, Susannah and Maria. In October 1830 William and John aged 11 were attacked by Aborigines and reports of the incident include the note by the police magistrate that he had known William Gangell for near on 16 years and that William was of 'borne a good character for honesty and sobriety'.

William died in November 1846 and his burial is recorded in the registers of the St. George's Church of England, Sorrell on 7th November 1846. His second wife Mary died in 1870.

Remaining descendants in Tasmania that bear the Gangell name are from Jacob, the son of the second marriage. William Henry, John, Isaac, Mary Ann and Susannah all settled on the mainland with their families. Charles and Jane died as infants and James was father to one daughter only.

*Source of original article by Mrs. Maree Ring of Montrose, Tasmania*