

James Hewish & Maria Wright

Hewish's of Cheriton Fitzpaine, Devonshire, England.



James Hewish born 15th March 1812 died 10th December 1868
married on the 20th March 1834 **Maria Wright** born 1811 died 3rd December 1870
the daughter of John Wright and Ann Flay of Honiton, Devonshire
at the Payhembury Parish Church, Devonshire, England.
(Payhembury is approximately 15 miles from Cheriton Fitzpaine)

James was a farm labourer and farrier.

James and Maria lived in the Villages around Devon during the years 1834 - 1841. Their exact place of residence remains unknown before 1840. There are no birth records found of their first three children, but their 4th child was baptised in Cheriton Fitzpaine.

There is evidence of the Hewish name and its variants, Huish, Hiwis, Hiwyssh, dating back hundreds of years and possibly influenced by Nordic warriors. The Hewish name was first recorded in Britain in 1194, in the case of Robert de Hiwis of Devonshire. In a church in Perry, Cambridgeshire, a couple of hundred miles from Cheriton Fitzpaine, there is a slab stating that Andrew Hewish departed this life on 17th October 1718.

Information before 1800 is incomplete, but since then more accurate church records, and records of tax payments and land transfer have been kept, making the lineage more easily traced.



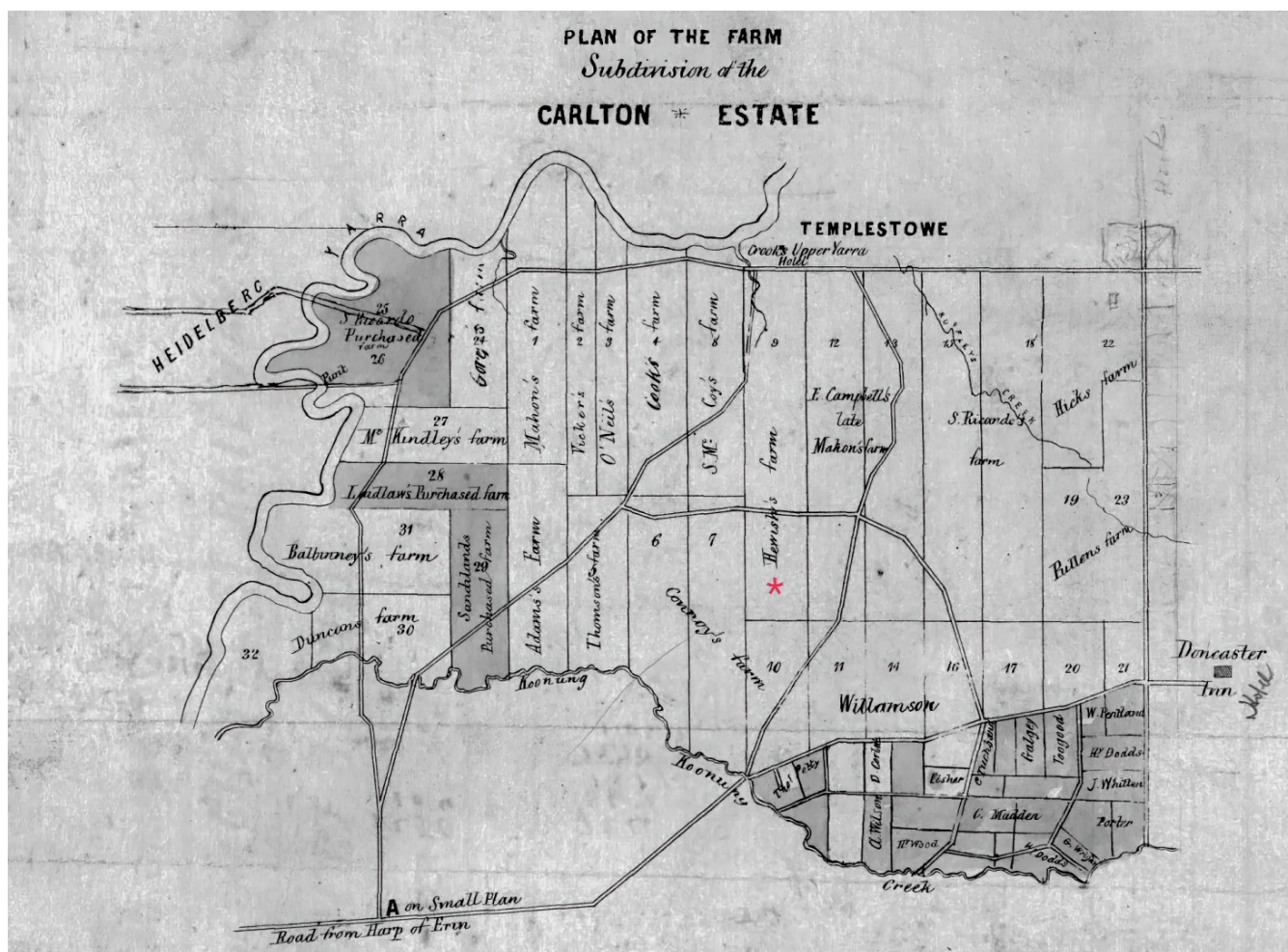
James and Maria left their homeland forever and sailed for Australia with 3 children, Andrew, Emma and John, on the ex-convict ship "Duchess of Northumberland", sailing from Plymouth on 25th February 1841 with 229 other passengers on board and arriving in Port Phillip [then New South Wales] on 3rd June 1841. James was listed as a blacksmith.

James and Maria's 2nd child, Andrew, died 5 years after leaving England. (aged 9 yrs.)
Maria gave birth to a further 6 children in Australia.

Matilda	b.1835 died in England
Andrew	b.1836 died in Australia 3 years after leaving England.
Emma	b.1838 married John Smith 13 children (linked to Smith /Clay /White)
John	b.1840 married Louisa Cunningham
Thomas	b.1842 married Ann Allen
Elizabeth	b.1844 married Robert Mundy (linked to Hill /White)
Henry	b.1846 married Catherine Kent (our Hewish lineage)
James	b.1848 married Emily Houghton
Andrew	b.1850 married Annie Rowe
Matilda	b.1852 married John Burke



Elizabeth Hewish/Mundy



On arrival, they took up land on the Carlton Estate at Templestowe, becoming one of the first families in the area of the stringy bark forest, known as Bulleen. These were very early historical times, as settlement had only been established on the lower reaches of the Yarra in 1835, starting as an untidy sprawl of tents, huts and humpies. Three years later, it had a population of 4000 people. It was named the township of "Melbourne" in 1837, and the river flats to the east, including Bullen, were the first areas to be surveyed in 1839. (Victoria was proclaimed a state in 1850)

James and Maria's property was named "Cheriton Farm" as a reminder of England, and area maps of the time recorded that James was a holder of many acres of land. On the 15th November 1856, James, along with nine others, signed a petition to the Commissioner of Crown Lands. It was to convene a meeting to elect members to form the Templestowe District Roads Board. He was one of seven duly elected on 8th December 1856, a forerunner of the Shire of Templestowe.

James employed John Smith to work on the farm and in the butcher's shop, who later became a son-in-law when he married their daughter Emma.



No images of James or Maria are available

Notes: James and Maria Hewish are buried in the Templestowe Cemetery.
James - Church of England Section, Row Z Grave 74 (no headstone)
Maria - Unknown section A-0