

Henry FLACK (1799-1850)

Henry FLACK, son of Nathaniel FLACK (c. 1773-c. 1853) and Elizabeth CARMAN (c. 1779-c. 1815), was born on 12 June 1799 in South Lopham, Norfolk - Date from his parish baptism record.¹ He was baptised on 12 June 1799 in South Lopham - privately baptised on same day as birth; parents Nathaniel and Elizabeth (nee CARMAN)¹

In August 1821 Henry was indicted for burglary (house-breaking) in Lakenheath in April of that year and in the company of Ann FLACK and probably Nathaniel FLACK, for stealing some 26/- in silver, a quantity of copper coin, hemp, calico and other items. Capitally convicted at Bury St Edmunds he received the sentence of death, which was commuted to life transportation to Australia. He was moved from Bury St Edmunds gaol to a prison hulk at Portsmouth in September. Along with over 180 other prisoners, Henry was moved to the ship 'Phoenix' which left London in late 1821 bound for Van Dieman's Land (Tasmania), arriving in May 1822.

Henry died on 3 November 1850 in Great Swanport, Tasmania - stoned to death possibly by another shepherd

On 13 November 1850 there was a newspaper report in the Launceston Examiner, Tasmania:

A shepherd named Henry Flack, in the employ of Mr. W. Hepburn, of Swansea, was found murdered on the 3rd instant. Around the spot where he was found a number, of large stones, having skin and blood on them, were lying, and it is supposed that they were. the instruments used, to accomplish the deed, his head being horribly mutilated, and the back part of it driven some .inches into the ground. A. vague suspicion attaches to a fellow shepherd, who is in custody.

On 19 November 1850 there was a newspaper report in the The Cornwall Chronical, Launceston, Tasmania:

LOCAL.

Barbarous murder. — Lately, the body of a man named Henry Flack, in the employ of Mr. William Hepburn, of the district of Great Swanport, was found in a mutilated state. As strong suspicion exists, that the deceased had been inhumanly murdered, a reward

of £50 to any free person, (and a recommendation to a conditional pardon, to a prisoner of the crown) on apprehension and conviction of the perpetrator or perpetrators, has been offered by the Colonial Government.

Sources

1. *PR - Baptism*. South Lopham, Norfolk. Cit. Date: 12 June 1799.