

## Francis Cotton and Anna Maria Cotton

Francis Cotton (1800 – 1883) a Quaker and builder who emigrated to Tasmania with his wife, Anna Maria, and friend, George Story. Cotton and his family took up Kelvedon where, despite isolation, raids by Aborigines, fear of bushrangers, and destruction by fire, they prospered as sheep farmers. After his reconversion to Quakerism, Cotton travelled 'in the ministry' around Tasmania and to the other colonies.

Anna Maria Cotton (1801 – 1883) a former Quaker, was born in Kelvedon, Essex. At eighteen, she married the Quaker, Francis Cotton, which led to his exclusion from the religion. In 1828, the couple emigrated to Australia with George Story, finally settling at Swansea, where they named their property Kelvedon. After meeting Backhouse and Walker, the Cottons rejoined the Quakers. After that, Kelvedon became a major centre for Quakerism in Tasmania. Ten children survived their parents.

(Biographical notes by Dr. Caroline Evans)



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