

### **Kelvedon, Swansea, Tasmania.**



Kelvedon Farm, located near Swansea, Tasmania, became a major centre for Quakerism in Tasmania after the Cotton Family settled there in 1828.

Francis Cotton (1800-1883), was a Quaker and a builder by trade who had come out to Tasmania in 1828 with his wife and friend, George Story, and acquired land near Swansea. Francis and his wife Anna Maria named their home Kelvedon after Anna Maria's birthplace. Francis had belonged to the Quakers in England, but had been disowned for marrying a lapsed Quaker. After meeting Backhouse and Walker the couple and their family rejoined the Friends. Kelvedon became the second centre of Tasmanian Quakerism with Dr George Story (1800-85), District Assistant Surgeon at Swansea, the most notable Quaker in the Kelvedon orbit. Despite isolation, raids by Aborigines, fear of bushrangers, and destruction by fire, the Cottons prospered as sheep farmers. After being readmitted to the Society of Friends Francis Cotton travelled 'in the ministry' around Tasmania and to the other colonies.

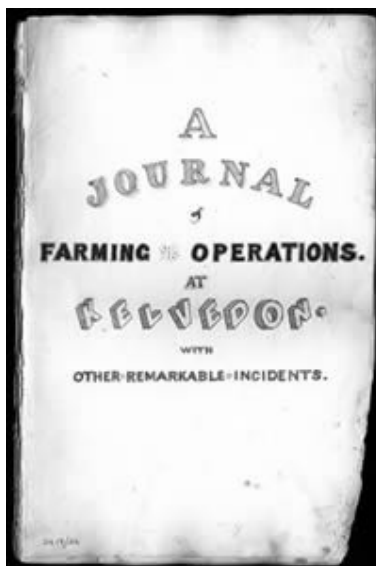
Anna Maria Tilney (1801-1883) was born in Kelvedon, Essex. At eighteen she married Francis Cotton and since she was a lapsed Quaker, her husband was disowned by the Society of Friends. The constant round of childbearing and the rigours of pioneer life took their toll of her health and good humour. Ten children survived their parents.



Photograph of Francis and Anna Maria Cotton



Etching of 'Kelvedon, the residence of Francis Cotton' by James Backhouse from his book *A Narrative of a Visit to the Australian Colonies*.



Kelvedon Farm Journal, 1856-1859