

Medical Records of Louisa Blyth (formerly Kaufmann)

Archives Office of Tasmania Microfilm HSD285/1 Admissions papers **1872**
New Norfolk Hospital for the Insane

Form 1 Medical Certificate (Insane Persons Hospital Act)

I the undersigned, being a medical practitioner, hereby certify that I, on the **21st November 1872** personally examined **Louisa Blyth of Prossers Forest**, said **Louisa Blyth** is a lunatic and a proper person to be taken charge of and detained under care and treatment; and that I have formed this opinion upon the following grounds; viz-

Facts indicating Insanity observed by myself:

When called to see her, found her in a semi state of nudity, stripped to the waist. She was "singing" and dancing, told me to put her hat on my head. Said her name was Drywald Brown, commenced shouting and talking incoherently. Tossing her arms wildly about made hideous grimaces and sees imaginary objects : wants the dogs to be sent away – made an attempt to snatch my watch chain – her language is so incoherent and unintelligible that I cannot make out.....point (that is one in particular) but she is evidently a lunatic and requires restraint.

Other facts indicating Insanity communicated to me by others:-

I am informed by her husband **Robert Blyth** that she has been insane for four weeks, when she first became insane was constantly talking about the Governor and the Lawyer, her constant desire was to see them, wanted her husband to telegraph for the Governor in order that he might visit her. At times would relapse into partial stupor, refusing for some time to utter a word, at other times her features and speech would be wild, her manner restless – her speech incoherent – constantly singing unintelligible songs. She was confined of a son about a month ago but previous to this her husband informs me her manner for some time was strange and different to her usual demeanour. She was of late driving her children out of the house, and compelled them to sleep in the bush, and has followed them with a gun, and at other times with an axe.

Dated this 21st November 1872 (Signed) *William Mason of Launceston*

I certify to the best of my knowledge the above particulars are correctly stated.

(signed) **Robert Blyth** Occupation *Small Farmer*
Place of Abode *Prossers Forest* Degree of relationship if any or other circumstances
of connexion with the patient *Husband*

Robert Blyth is a small farmer occupying fifty acres principally Bush land – he has a Cart and two horses constantly employed in conveying split timber into Launceston – We are of the opinion that he is able to pay one shilling per diem toward the maintenance of his Wife

William Mason
Abraham Barrett JP