

Margaret Walsh
March 2009

Museum Practice IV Assessment

Mt Pleasant Cemetery

Item

Name of Item: Mary's Garden
Type of Item: Archaeological
Group/Collection: Cemeteries/Burial Sites
Category: Graveyard/Burial Ground/Cemetery/Headstones
Location: Mt Pleasant Pastoral Property – Dalton NSW
Shire: Upper Lachlan Shire

Description: Toohey family cemetery comprising of 7 identified graves located 100m within the Mt Pleasant property boundary. Facing east, with a perimeter fence the cemetery records the earliest burial as 1841 and the most recent as 1916.



Guilford Lee (6) is Patrick's son (7)
Unknown (3) is believed to be a child of Patrick's (7)

Further descendants are buried in the Goswong Catholic Cemetery (*NB son John Walsh is a seventh generation descendant of the Toohey family.)



Heritage Values:

Historical Cemeteries are a historic record of Australian society. They document growth and development of communities, early European settlement patterns and provide historical significance from the graves of distinguished individuals.

Social Cemeteries hold a special significance for families and communities. Early European graves, especially those of convicts, are often considered socially significant to communities.

Aesthetic Cemeteries reflect the changing attitudes to death, and the changes in architectural style. Monument styles often reflect the trends within the local community of the era and contain work by local manufactures.

Scientific Scientifically speaking, human remains are a major element of heritage significance, including archaeological and scientific potential, relative religious beliefs and general respect for our ancestors.

Provenance The Toohey family has a wide ranging family history tracing from convict roots to modern day pastoral life. The importance in the pattern of history, the associations with people and the amount of information yielded by investigating the family makes the site significant.

Rarity Family cemeteries are not in themselves uncommon, but each is unique in the family story that is told. The examples in the Toohey Cemetery are indicative of Catholic family burials in Australia, but one as intact, and with a traceable family heritage with living links is unusual.

Representativeness The cemetery is a good example of family burial during the 19th Century. The inclusion of a 5 month old child indicates the strength in religious belief as does the unmarked child's grave. That all members of the family during that age are not buried here is indicative of the evolution of change in people's feelings towards burial.

Condition and Integrity Given the age of the site the condition is quite good. Transcriptions of all etchings have been recorded and the graves are well tended. The condition of the headstones is remarkably good given their location and proximity to a road. Some wear and erosion are evident but general condition is good and prospects for conservation work to maintain current condition is favourable.

Interpretive Potential The interpretive possibilities of this site are limitless. With links to convict transportation, crime and justice in Ireland in the time of transportation, family separation, early exploration, settlement and community development interwoven with the thread of a 'convict made good' would create a rich tapestry showcasing Australian History with a link from the 1800's to the present day and continuing.

Historical Facts:

John Toohey was transported to Australia for the crime of robbery of a dwelling place in Tipperary. He arrived in Sydney on the 18th Dec 1830 on board the Andromeda after a journey of 112 days. John Toohey was listed on the ships indent on arrival as

No.171 Toohy John Aged 23, Education none, Catholic, Married 1 child, Native Place Tipperary, Occupation Ploughman, reaper, sower, miller. Tried at Tipperary, 25 March 1830. Sentenced to 7 years, no previous convictions. 5ft 7in tall, sallow, freckled complexion, light brown hair, hazel eyes, no distinguishing marks. Dispersed to H.Hume, Appin.

Convicts were either kept by the Government to labour works, or were assigned, lent out, as labourers to private settlers. John Toohey was assigned to Hamilton Hume of Appin, the son of a large landowner of that district. This is the same Hume, who with Hovell, made explorations into the country west and south of Sydney and made the important journey from Appin-Gunning to Corio Bay in Port Phillip in 1824.

John Toohey remained in the district of Appin with the Humes for several years and obtained his Ticket of Leave in Oct 1834 where soon after he was transferred to the Yass District in 1835.

In 1837 Toohey received his Certificate of Freedom and a Notice for the Sale of Land was published in 1849 –

Lot 70 of 64 acres and Lot 74 of 103 acres, County King, Parish unnamed, Jerrawa. Toohey bought Lot 70 for 89 pounds 12 shillings (1 pound 8 shillings per acre) and Lot 74 for 113 pounds 6 shillings (1 pound 2 shillings per acre).

In the following years Toohey purchased additional land near the original portions totalling 578 acres.

John Toohey named his property "Willmount"* and on his death on 5th Jan 1869 he was buried in what was to become the Toohey Family Private Cemetery. There may be as many as 16 persons buried in the cemetery and it is believed, although not inscribed in the headstone, that John's wife – Mary, who died in 1883 is buried alongside him.

*there is no recorded information regarding when the property name changed to Mt Pleasant. John Walsh, Toohey's GGG Grandson has no information.



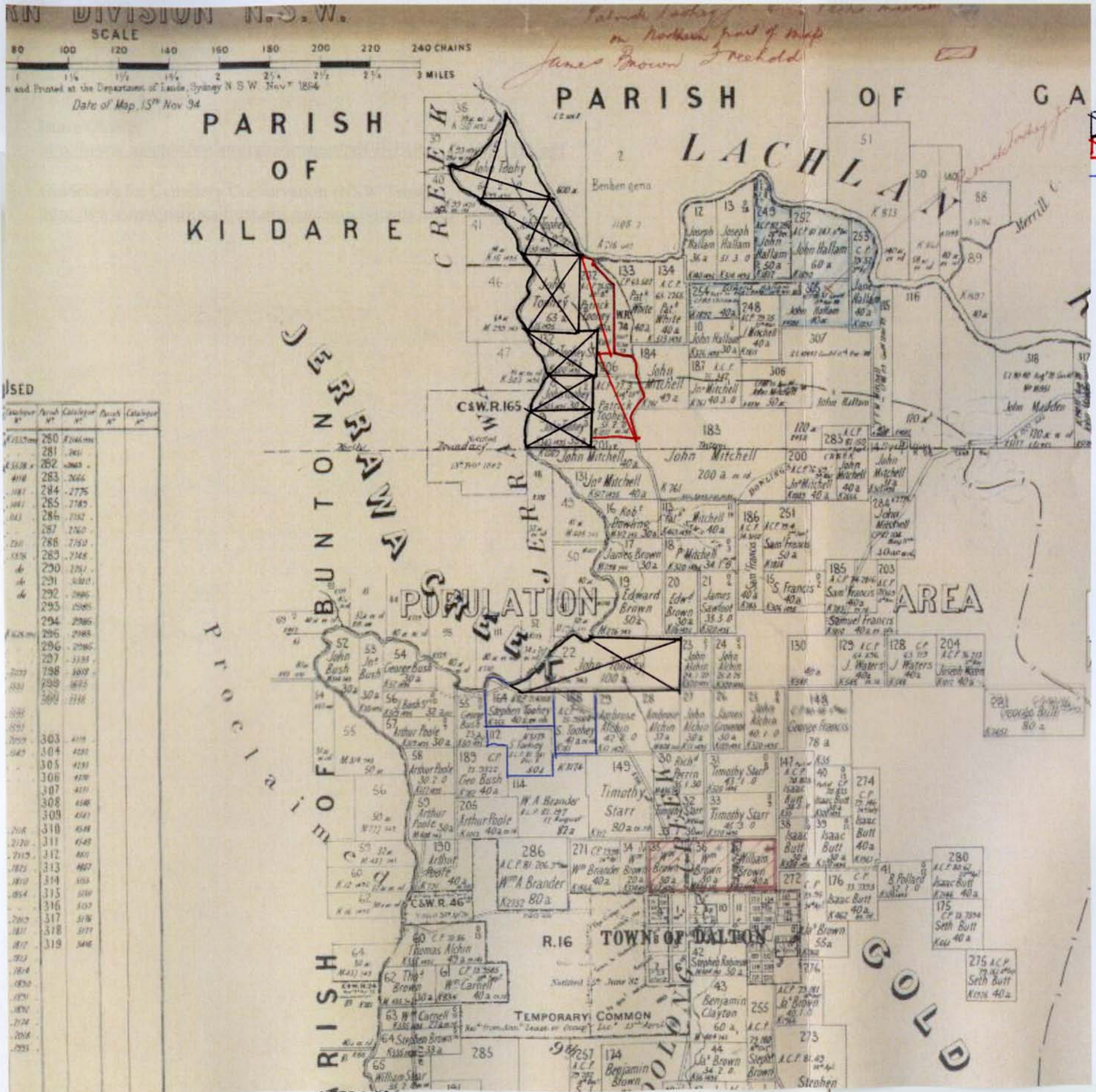
Headstones: A Headstone, tombstone or gravestone is a marker, normally carved from stone, placed over or next to the site of a burial in a cemetery or elsewhere. Throughout the ages burial markers have been used to narrate the history of an area. Markers usually include an inscription telling the story of the deceased life and contributions. Quotations from religious texts or notable sayings may also be inscribed. Images may also be inscribed, each with their own meaning – birds=the soul, book=faith or wisdom, heart=devotion, garland=victory over death.

The information on the headstone generally includes the name of the deceased, their date and place of birth and death. Historians and genealogists use this information to research family history and record

Sandstone is durable but easy to carve. Sandstone is prevalent in the Goulburn district from where the John Toohey headstone was made. The golden age of the mason's art came with the spread of wealth and literacy in the mid-nineteenth century. The plain, modest style of earlier tombstones was replaced by the more ornate, grand works of monumental masons.

Stonemasons in Goulburn: Mary Tooheys headstone allegedly has been lost. There was a stone but not long after it was erected the engraving/etching became badly weathered and the stone was returned to the masons for repair. In that time the stonemason is believed to have died (Dwyer or O'Dwyer), and the daughters who were responsible for the winding up of the business forwarded it to another stonemason whose identity was unknown and the stone was never recovered.

LAND TITLES 1894



Category	Area	Category	Area	Category	Area
280	2060				
281	261				
282	2665				
283	2665				
284	2775				
285	2785				
286	2782				
287	2760				
288	2750				
289	2744				
290	2750				
291	2800				
292	2885				
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295	2885				
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