



THE NINNES LONELY GRAVE

Also known as *The Pioneer Grave*

- and the legacy of Thomas and Maria Ninnes

No 12, May 2008

The Grave Reserve:

WORKING BEE & PICNIC LUNCH

Sunday 6 July 2008 from 10 am

At the Ninnes Grave Reserve

Pioneer Drive, Robin Hill Estate

Workers and Lunchers—All Welcome

Recent changes in the Parks and Natural Environment Department of City of Greater Bendigo have highlighted the opportunity for Friends of the Ninnes Grave to assist with the maintenance of the Grave Reserve.

To help establish this relationship the Department has agreed to assist a 'Friends Working Bee' on **Sunday 6 July 2008** at 10 am.

The work will take approximately 2 hours — to finish in time for a picnic lunch— BYO.

A member of the Parks & Natural Environment Department of the Council will be present to oversee work. Some tools will be supplied.

The areas requiring attention initially are:

- removing dead limbs, weeds, tree guards,
- raking pathways
- cleaning areas around drains

Everyone is welcome—to work and/or lunch.

Seed Collection:

The Council intends that any further planting in the Reserve be done using plants raised from seed collected locally.

Here too there is an opportunity to be involved—in assisting with seed collection.

We will be notified of appropriate times for collection from suitable species—and with luck we will be able to have a team available when the time is right.

Register your name with Moira Drew if you are interested in being on the 'on call' list. Experience collecting seed is not necessary— Council staff will be available for training.

Wall Repairs:

Discussions continue with the Council about options for funding so that repairs to the Grave Wall can be carried out.

Land for sale:

The last remaining block of land near the Grave Reserve is for sale. It is on the high side in Kawana Drive, overlooking the Reserve — a feature is a significant range of increasingly rare remnant vegetation.

Can we raise the \$115,000 asking price?

Compiled by Moira Drew

Correspondence to: 8/136 Alma Road, Balaclava Vic 3183 Ph: 03 9525 9083

Available on-line courtesy of the Cornish Association of Victoria Inc

- <http://home.vicnet.net.au/~caov/linkscn/linksc.htm> - and scroll down to 'Cornish One Name Groups & Studies' or to receive it by email contact: moiradrew@connexus.net.au

Thomas Ninnes's Notebook:

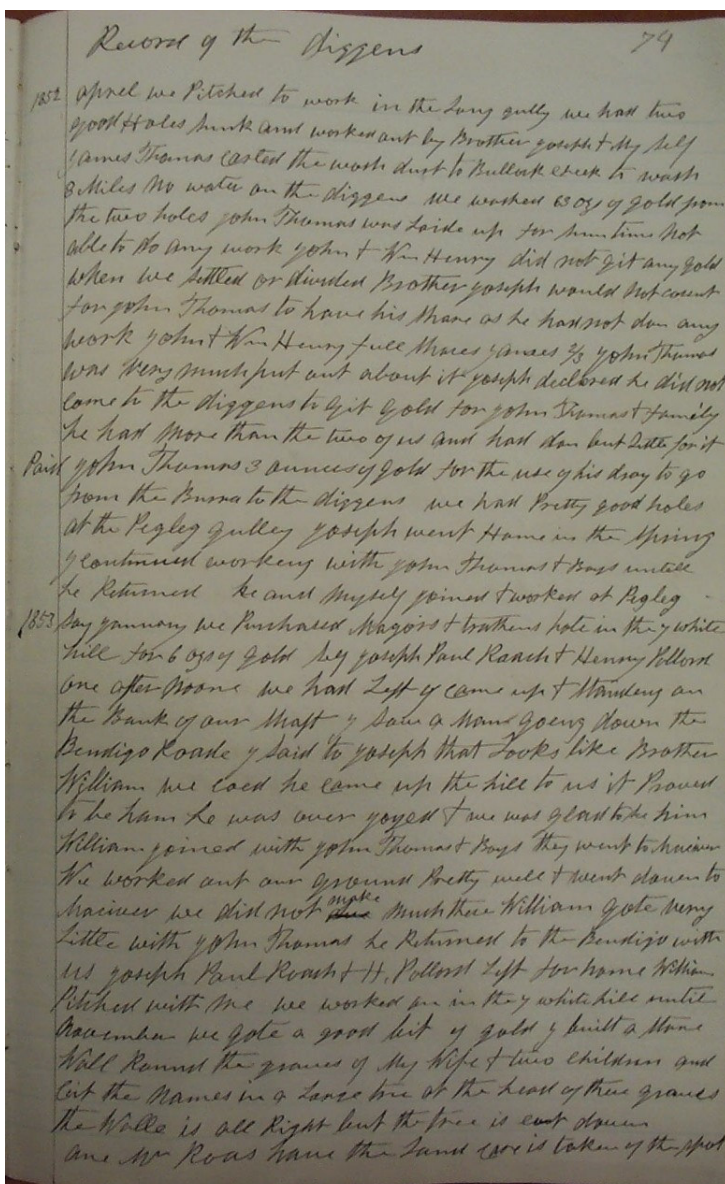
Part of his account of 'The Diggins', including the grave wall.

1852

April we pitched to work in the Long Gully we had two good holes sunk and worked out by brother Joseph & my self. James Thomas carted the wash dust to Bullock Creek to wash, 8 miles. No water on the diggens. We washed 63 ozs of gold from the two holes. John Thomas was laide up for some time not able to do any work. John & Wm Henry did not git any gold. When we settled or divided brother Joseph would not count for John Thomas to have his share as he had not done any work. John & Wm Henry full shares, James 2/3. John Thomas was very much put out about it. Joseph declared he did not come to the diggens to git gold for John Thomas & family. He had more than the two of us and had done but little for it Paid John Thomas 3ozs of gold for the use of his dray to go from the Burra to the diggens. We had pretty good holes at the Pegleg Gulley. Joseph went home in the spring. I continued working with John Thomas & boys until he returned. He and myself joined and worked at Pegleg. [John Thomas was their brother-in-law, husband of Mary]



The cover of the notebook



1853

Say January we purchased Magors & Trathens hole in the 7 White Hill for 6ozs of gold Self Joseph Paul Roach & Henry Pollard. One afternoone we had left & came up & standing on the bank f our shaft I saw a man going down the Bendigo Roade. I said to Joeseeph that looks like brother William We coeed, he came up the hill to us it proved to be him. He was overjoyed and we was glad to see him. William joined with John Thomas. They went to MacIver. We worked out our ground pretty well & went down to MacIver. We did not make much there. William gote very little with John Thomas. He returned to the Bendigo with us. Joseph, Paul Roach & H Pollard left for home. William pitched with me. We worked on in the 7 White Hill until November. **We gote a good bit of gold and built a stone wall round the graves of my wife and 2 children and cut the names in a large tree at the head of the graves.** The walle is all right but the tree is cut down and Mr Roas have the land, care is taken of the spot.

The Notebook is written as a memoir — it is not a diary — hence the reference to subsequent arrangements for the grave to be cared for