



THE NINNES LONELY GRAVE

also known as The Pioneer Grave
and the legacy of Thomas and Maria Ninnes

No 13, September 2008

The Grave Reserve—Working Bee:

Approximately 20 'Friends of the Ninnes Grave' attended the Working Bee on **Sunday 6 July 2008** and enjoyed a picnic lunch afterwards. Much was achieved and a lot of fun had.

The Working Bee was arranged in conjunction with the Bendigo Council Department of Parks & Natural Environment. Staff member Jaim Luxford, who has recently taken over the job of over-seeing the Reserve, and his colleague Kylie McLennan, were on hand to assist and direct us and provide tools.

The pathways and area immediately surrounding the grave were raked, debris cleared away from the drains, dead trees and limbs removed from along the path in the lower section and areas cleared so that the grass will be easier to mow.

The area inside the Grave wall was cleared, soil and mulch added and planted with a selection of four small flowering plants - Chocolate Lily (*Arthropodium strictum*), Blue Devil (*Eryngium ovinum*), Lemon Beauty Heads (*Calocephalus citreus*) and Magenta Storksbill (*Pelargonium rodneyanum*) - see photos. (With Libby's watering and some rain since, they have been well watered in and are doing well.)

These plants, not indigenous to the area, will be enclosed within the Grave wall, while those planted in the rest of the Reserve will be grown from local seed by the Council.

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The new sign at the Kawana Drive entrance to the Reserve



Below: The soil goes in—Derek Trewarne and Jaim Luxford watched by George Ellis. Then the mulch—Derek Trewarne and Joy Drummond. After planting, the water—Libby & Tom Luke.



Further Extracts from Thomas Ninnes' notebook**PAGE 68 RECORD OF WHERE WE LIVED IN CORNWALL**

- 1838** I married Maria Nicholls aforesaid. We lived at Skillywadden
- 1839 Feby 17** Firs daughter born at Skillywadden. I paid 1/3 [one-third] outs and received 1/3 of Returns from the lands
- 1839** Dec (or Jun) 26 With my brother George jointly we took Trevesa Wortha land of Thos Reynolds at the rental of £51.0.0 yearly
- 1840 Jany** Left Skillywadden to my younger brothers and commenced with brother George to farm the land and work at Rosewall Hill enging shaft. We was able to pay our way
- 1841** Mr Jas Hals an Old member of Parliament died. Mr Lee his niphew and Mr Wm Prade contested the election. Mr Prade was returned with a majority of 2
- 1841 Jany 26** Second daughter born at Trevesa Wortha , see Record.
Carried on farming & mining for 2 years with George
- 1842 September 29** Took possession of Busalow in the Parish of Madron, about 20 acres. Pretty good land well watered at the yearly rental of £50.0.0 It had been litt to two tenants and over tiled There was a disadvantage (Prades Land ? South)
- 1843 Jun 8** The third daughter born at Busalow. I found that all the produce of the place would not amount to more than £100 clear of seeding the land
- 1833** Wheat realised £1.10.0 Barly 16/- Oats 8 – 10 shillings Cornish bushell
- 1839** Wheat realised £1.5.0. Barly 12/- Oats 7 – 8 shillings per bushel 24 galls
- 1843** Wheat realised 18/- (shillings) Barly 9/- (shillings) Oats 6/- per Cornich bushell 24 gallons
- 1845 April 1** Boy born at Chysauster We was building our new house at Busalow See Records of Birth & Deaths.

The Great Potatoey deseas took place this year. I had a beautiful field of potatoes in appearance in July month the lieves became spotted black as if fire had been placed on the lives. When we diged them more than half of the potatoes was black colred and was no good. Fearful loss.

- 1846 July 28** Grace Nicholls born at Busalow, see Records
A failour of the potatoey crop also this year also.
At the end of this year gave up Busalow. Harry's took it.
September Left Busalow came to the Garras. We lived for a few weeks with grandmother Grace Nicholls

PAGE 69 RECORD OF CORNWALL & TO VICTORIA & PIRENESS MOUNTAINS

- 1846** Lived at the Garras with grandmother Grace Nicholls. I worked at Balquy stoped at Skillywadden with brother William. I caught a bad cold laid up with the fevour. Gote better. Went to Skillyadden and family to live
- 1847** Joined brother William on the land and worked to Mine
- 1847 January** Pitched with brother John & others in Weal Margaret Mine. Got £38.16.5 for 14 months
- 1848** Dorcas born at Skillywadden 6 Feby, see Records
March, April, May & June worked at Balnoon with brother William we gote about £2.0.0 a month

- 1848** Applied to the Emigration Agent for a passage to Australia. Self [Thomas NINNES], brother Joseph [NINNES], John THOMAS, Thomas ROACH and family. The second week in July we all left from Plymouth in a small steamer. We all took passage for Port Phillip, there was not another ship going to Adelaide for some time. The Bessorah Merchant (of 450 tons) came down from London for Adelaide. A large family failed in going. Thomas ROACH and family had the chance of going to Adelaide in her direct.
- 17 July** We sailed from Plymouth in the Andromache ship about 450 tons. Dead hed winds on the Borders of the Bay of Biske, almost all very sick.
- 10 Sep** Dorcas [NINNES] died 1000 miles south of the Cape of Good Hope, buried in the sea. Three births and three childrens deaths on the voiage. We came to anchor on the 8 November at Point Henry, 7 miles out from Geelong
- Nov Say 12** Landed. Stopped at the dippot engaged by A. Wooley to go up to the Pireennes [Pyrenees) Mountains with Mr Alexander Erving [Irving / Ewing?], sheep farmer, for general purposes on his station. Wife to wash for his house. He was married recently wife confined of first child at this time, Christmas 1848. My wife didn't lik it nither was she able to wash and care for her own three children. We left early in 1849 came down with Mr Ervins wool dray loaded with wool to Geelong. Mr Wooley wanted a stone man.

PAGE 70 RECORD OF BEING WITH MR WOOLEY AND TO THE BURRA

I ingaged with him at 17 or 18 shillings a week with full rations and a cottage to live in. He was a wholesale merchant I liked my master and the place well.

- 1849** Early in April brother Joseph and brother-in-law John Thomas & family was leaving for Adelaide I wanted to come with them Mr Wooley was very unwilling to leave me go I suited his purpose well But at all events we came down from Melbourne in the ship Wuzeer. Self, wife 3 children £8.0.0 pasage to Adelaide. Mary Jane THOMAS was taken very bad with a fevour. She died at Port Adelaide. Brother Joseph and self employed a dray. Went to the Burra direct. In April 1849 began to work at the Burra mine at Grass work. Gote one roome of one of the 4 rome cottages northside of the square. William JAMES from St Just wife, son and 2 daughters lived in another room. Nicholas TREHARE and wife in another. James BONE and sister (now Mrs [William] Blight of Clare) lived in the 4 rooms. Roofed with shingles no sealing [ceiling] and not plastered. Fearful for dust and wind. Hundred living in huts dug out in the banks of the Burra creek.
- 1850 Feb 3** Soone James DILLBREGE [DELLBRIDGE] and son turned out of the enging shaft. Brother Joseph and myself got their places. We worked in the shaft to the end of Jan 1852 – 2 years 9 months I worked at the Burra Mine gote £279.4.11. I took the Lease of Allotment in the hill a few chain south east of the Wesleyan Church Kooringa I built a 3 roome house out of ? sparetime got in it to live. We paid 1/6 [one shilling & 6 pence] cash a week each for the rooms in the big cottages. I granted a part of the Allotment to Nicholas TREHARE and part to brother Joseph. Brother Joseph and self built two two roome cottages more and kepted our places at the mine as well as let them
- 1851** about the end of the year the Victorian gold diggens was discovered. Almost all the men left for the diggens.
- 1849 May 6** Grace Nicholls [NINNES] died at the Burra
- 1852 June 17** The 2nd Grace Nicholls [NINNES] born at the Burra

PAGE 71 RECORD OF OUR DOINS AT THE BURRA

Early at the Burra bought 5 or 6 cows and a mare. We milked cows and sold milk. We done pretty well at the Burra.

From p 1

The family was represented by Gordon & Jan Ninnes visiting from Adelaide, and Moira Drew and the 'Bendigo Friends' by a Bendigo 'local' and long-time 'Friend of the Grave'. We were especially pleased to meet three Robin Hill neighbours, Jane and Peter Nicholson and Joy Drummond, and to hear of their interest in on-going assistance over-seeing the Reserve.

The Cornish Association of Victoria was well represented - accounting for around half the number, along with George Ellis from the Cornish Association of Bendigo & District. It was obviously good timing - there had been a Cornish Association function in Bendigo the evening before!!

The sun came out in time for our picnic lunch, and Jane and Peter lent us some chairs, so all very enjoyable. There was some serious talk too though - about plans for the future of the Grave and the Reserve. Conservation work on the wall is a high priority, as is the next stage of planting in the upper area of the reserve. Two or three wooden seats should soon be installed.

Wall Repairs:

We hope that, in a similar way to the Reserve being taken care of by the Department of Parks & Natural Environment, the Grave wall too will become part of a regular maintenance schedule undertaken by the City of Greater Bendigo.

Seed Collection:

We will be advised by the Council of the appropriate times to collect seed from selected plants. Thank you to those who have volunteered. If you are interested in being on the 'on call' list, register your name with Moira Drew. Experience collecting seed is not necessary — training will be available.

Congratulations Edith Lunn

101 on 27 July 2008

and still introducing people to the story of
The Lonely Grave



Top: Gordon Ninnes, Derek & Jenny Trewarne, June Whiffin & Jane & Peter Nicholson survey the result..

Photographs

Jenny & Derek
Trewarne
and
Libby Luke



Above right: Two Cornish Presidents! Derek Trewarne of the Cornish Association of Victoria and George Ellis of the Cornish Association of Bendigo & District. **Below:** Lunch in the sunshine



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Available via internet 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