

Cemetery: from Kincaig to Naracoorte

References from State Records & various newspapers

Border Watch 13 Sept 1861 – Died. On the 7th September at Narracoorte, Mosquito Plains, Mrs CG Doughty, aged 35 years

GRG35/23/1891 of Oct 1861 – correspondence to Crown Lands

From Charles Dumaresque of “Kincaig, Mosquito Plains”; could current cemetery land be laid out as a square; yes provided no more burials; but burials can’t be stopped until the new cemetery has been marked out

GRG35/1 – 2125/61 20 Oct 1861 from GW Goyder “For sanitary considerations it has already been decided to alter the site of the cemetery from A to B, removing the few bodies that have already been interred. This alteration will enable to Govt to extend the allotments from the present township of Naracoorte to Kincaig, and should it be decided to remove the Court House one of the new allotments would be well situated as respects position for both townships.”

GRG35/26 No 1615 & 1616 (Nov 1861) - correspondence from Crown Lands to Dumaresque; how many interments, bodies to be moved at Govt expense

GRG35/23/2087 of 9 Nov 1861 - correspondence to Crown Lands

From Dumaresque, opposition to moving bodies to new cemetery, will write again with nearest approach to number buried in present cemetery

GRG35/23/2125 of Nov 1861 - correspondence to Crown Lands

Supposed to be letter from Dumaresque with number of bodies, but only Govt notes survive; includes tracing of both townships; cemetery to move from A to B

Border Watch 29 Nov 1861 – On Saturday a public meeting was convened in the Court House for the purpose of taking into consideration a proposition made by the Crown Lands Commissioner, in reference to the exhumation and removal of the bodies buried in the present cemetery to a new one about to be laid out by Govt. Mr W Macintosh occupied the chair. The following resolutions were proposed and carried 1. That it is not in conformity with the wishes of this meeting to exhume and remove the bodies of persons buried in present cemetery 2. That if the Govt wish to enter the site of the cemetery, it would be in accordance with the wishes of the present meeting to enclose the old one before opening the new one for use at the public expense 3. That these resolutions be forwarded to the Commissioner of Lands, as a reply to his communication of 6th Nov respecting the amalgamation of the townships of Kincaig and Narracoorte.

Advertiser 29 Nov 1861 – The Govt having determined to lay out a new burying ground in connection with the Ncte township on account of the present one being too near the township. They also propose to remove the bodies of those already interred to the new cemetery, should friends and relatives have no objection. We feel that this proposition will meet with the strongest opposition. We have no doubt but that it will be the wish of all that if the present burying ground is to be disused it should be fenced in and left as a reserve, and that those who slumber in it should be allowed to rest in peace. A public meeting held since the above was written have affirmed these opinions.

Border Watch 24 Oct 1862 – Died. At Mosquito Plains, the beloved wife of William MacIntosh, esq, in the thirty third year of her age, deeply and justly regretted

Sept 1864 page 776 Govt Gazette; cemetery regulations to apply to list of townships, incl Narracoorte

Border Watch 23 Sept 1865 – Mosquito Plains. A public meeting was held in the Commercial Hotel on Wed last, to appoint trustees for the new cemetery. The following gentlemen were nominated – Messrs Carter, Gore, Gunning, Grieve, Horsfall, Attiwell and Agar.

Border Watch 9 June 1866 – Visitor inspected new Telegraph Station and Police Station. I was sorry to see that the cemetery remains unfenced. A few gravestones, literally in the scrub, are all that mark out “God’s acre”, where the dead repose. Surely some kind of fence, however rough, should protect this sacred spot.

Border Watch 16 May 1868 – Mosquito Plains. Visit of Comm of Crown Works & Commissioner of Crown Lands & Treasurer (any others?). Mr Caley pointed out that the position of the present cemetery was about one of the worst that could have been chosen. It was situated on a sandbank, which owing to the loose nature of the sand, was anything but favourable for sinking graves. The appearance of the place was also much against it – a less picturesque spot could hardly have been chosen. In reply to the Treasurer he said that a nice spot on the road to Robe, distant about a mile from the township, had been selected as a suitable place. Mr Carter who arrived at that moment confirmed the statement. He said the place which Mr Caley spoke of was situated upon a small unsold section, and he very much approved of the site. Mr Attiwell said that at the request of the Government five trustees had sent their names in and had written twice asking if they had been approved, no reply having been obtained. The Treasurer said he had not seen anything of these letters. He supposed they were lying in some of the “pigeon holes” in the Govt offices. Mr Attiwell said “Yes I think there are a great many pigeon holes in the Govt offices” (laughter, in which the Commissioners joined)

Council 5 Aug 1871 – Tenders to be called for fencing the old cemetery reserve in the township with top rail and four wires contract No 13

Council 19 Aug 1871 – Tenders for contract no 13.

W Vivian	£44 lump sum
Crawford & Davies	3/- per rod (accepted)
Geo Ludwig	£28.19.0
I Matthews	6/5 per rod

Council 2 Sept 1871 - Letter from Crawford & Davis stating that they had made a mistake in tendering for the fencing in of the old cemetery and could not carry out the work for the price – Resolved that their names be put on the black list, and the next lowest tender be accepted

Council 18 Oct 1871 – Accounts passed for payment:
surveying site for cemetery and making plans £3.3.0
in full for contract No 13 £28.19.0

Council 30 Aug 1873 – It was resolved that the public works committee report on the best means of improving the public cemetery

Council 13 Sept 1873 – A Ratepayers’ petition was received praying Council to improve the appearance of the public cemetery. It was resolved that the Clerk be instructed to write the Members of the District of Victoria, asking them to use their endeavours to obtain a Parliamentary grant for fencing the Cemetery, and that application be again made for a new site for a cemetery near the Manse.

Cr Peake gave notice of motion – That a chain strip around the graves in the Cemetery be cleared; together with the spaces between the graves.

BW 17 July 1875 - A public meeting was held at Jones’ Commercial Hotel to consider the matter of improving the cemetery, about 70 persons were present. After some discussion it was resolved that the present cemetery be retained and that it be vested in trustees independent of the District Council. Seven trustees were appointed by the meeting

Council 16 Aug 1875 – The Clerk was instructed to procure a chain and padlock for the old Cemetery gate

BW 20 Nov 1875 – I have already noticed the smashing in of the face of Mr Wheeler’s clock by some mischievous person. Ncte has experienced the usefulness of the institution and has so much become accustomed to its warning tones that it goes under the name of the town clock. The townspeople have resolved to reimburse Mr Wheeler, and to show the estimation in which his endeavour was held. Mr Wheeler has got a new bell for his clock and has presented the old one to the trustees of the cemetery.

BW 29 Jan 1876 – The cemetery trustees have received £26 2s, the proceeds of Christy Minstrel entertainments. The amount is for improving the cemetery ground.

Herald 8 Feb 1876 – Ncte Cemetery: A meeting of the trustees was held at the Ncte Hotel Tuesday evening; present Messrs Wheeler (chairman), Carroll, Lobban, Macintosh & Bethune; Mr Attiwill was unavoidably absent. It was decided to invite applications for the office of curator. The secretary was instructed to place lists in the banks and business places and advertise in the Herald for donations towards fencing the cemetery. The following persons were appointed a committee, with power to add to their number, to collect subscriptions – Messrs Grieve, Hood, Carroll, Wheeler, Lobban, McGilchrist, Bethune, Hollis, Attiwill, Limbert, Riddle, Balcon, Savage and Jones.

Herald 2 May 1876 – A correspondent who subscribes himself “ALB” complains of the apathy shown by the trustees in not getting the cemetery fenced, and says that it is a disgrace to any civilised community. He suggests that if the Trustees are unwilling to perform their duties they had better resign their offices.

Herald 5 Sept 1876 – A meeting of the cemetery trustees was held on Thurs evening when it was decided to call tenders to enclose the cemetery with a stone wall. In the meantime all subscriptions will be called in at once.

Herald 19 Sept 1876 – Advertising. Tenders will be received for building a stone wall around the Ncte cemetery up till the 26th inst. Specifications can be seen at Mr Lobban’s shop. Tenders to be addressed to Mr Wheeler, Chairman of Trustees.

3 Oct 1876 – re advertisement Cemetery wall. Owing to some alterations in the specification, fresh tenders are hereby invited for the work to be in before Thursday Oct 5. Specifications to be seen at Mr Lobban’s Furniture Mart.

10 Oct 1876 – Cemetery committee. A meeting was held on Thursday last, present Messrs Wheeler (in chair), Lobban, Carroll, Limbert & Attiwill. Tenders for building wall around the cemetery were as follows: J Lobban 5s 10d per yard; DeGaris 7s 5d per yard; Tregenza 6s per yard. It was resolved that Mr Lobban’s tender be accepted. It was decided that the secretary advertise in the Herald calling upon subscribers to pay their subscriptions, and persons holding lists to hand them in without delay. Next meeting Tues Nov 7.

Herald 6 Feb 1877 – Some time back the Cemetery committee called tenders for enclosing our cemetery with a stone wall. A tender was accepted and the work began, but the committee have had to stop work for want of funds. They relied on the support of the people of the district to assist them by coming forward with sufficient to pay the cost of the work, but they have been disappointed in their expectations. We feel we cannot do better than advise one and all to visit the cemetery. There cattle of all descriptions feed and trample upon everything. We trust all will see it their duty to give something towards this very needful work.

Council 6 Aug 1877 – Messrs Attiwill & Wheeler attended on behalf of the Cemetery Trustees, offering to hand over the trust of the Cemetery to the Council – to stand over for consideration of full meeting

Council 20 Aug 1877 – It was resolved that the Council accept the Cemetery Trust but were not prepared to take over any liabilities until the new rates were collected.

Herald 29 Jan 1878 – The trustees are having the cemetery cleared and they intend laying out the ground and planting a lot of choice shrubs. It is now enclosed with a fine stone wall and the trustees have accepted a tender for iron gates for the main entrance. We are glad to see this piece of ground which was at one time nothing more or less than a wilderness converted into a burying ground worthy of our civilization.

Herald 29 Jan 1878 – Advertising. Ncte Cemetery. Parties desirous of securing leases for the fenced graves will apply at once for same, as the ground so fenced is liable at any time to be used for fresh interments. Fred Wheeler, chairman

Herald 24 Dec 1878 – A handsome and costly memorial has just been erected in the cemetery to the memory of Mrs Carroll, the late wife of Mr Jas Carroll. The foundation stone of this beautiful and massive structure is

7ft deep. The base which is of costly bluestone is about 4ft square and 5ft high, inlaid with marble panels, on which are various suitable inscriptions. The column or monument is of white marble about 7ft high from the base, and on the top hangs a wreath of flowers. The column, instead of tapering to a point, is broken off, signifying the early death of the deceased lady. The grave is surrounded with an ornamental iron fence beautifully worked, and laid on a bluestone base. The whole forms the most pleasing and handsome memorial in our cemetery. Messrs Malcolm and Platt, who had the contract for the work, have shown much taste and care in its erection.

Border Watch 13 Sept 1882 – Petition to District Council to bring cemetery under control of Council, at present under a board of trustees. Cr Fullarton thought that bodies buried in old cemetery should be removed to the new, and the former be formed into a park.

Herald? 22 Sept 1882 - Ncte cemetery control to pass from trustees to District Council

BW 17 March 1883 – Messrs A Limbert, J Lobban, J Carroll, F Wheeler and A Attiwill, trustees of the cemetery, sent a deed of transfer of trust to the Council, which was accepted.

BW 21 March 1883 – At the meeting of the Council Messrs R Laidlaw and J Lobban, as a deputation, directed the attention of the Council to the want of attention to the surveyed plan in making interments, the result being that some graves occupied the footpaths. After consideration Cr Fullarton proposed that the cemetery be properly surveyed and a plan prepared, and Crs Assheton and Peake were appointed to report on the state of the cemetery.

Govt Gazette 29 March 1883 – Naracoorte cemetery transferred from Board of Trustees to Ncte District Council

BW 23 March 1887 – A fire spread over a considerable portion of the cemetery and damaged the wooden railing enclosing many of the graves, the fire did its worst over 40 graves.

BW 30 March 1887 – The sexton believes the fire at the cemetery was caused by drunken men, going there to sleep off the effects. Council to request the police to visit the cemetery occasionally and arrest any drunkards there. The curator to furnish a report on the damage and what it would cost to provide a windmill. Council to donate £10 and the Secretary of the cemetery to apply again in June.

BW 18 Oct 1890 – Notice to be gazetted informing relatives or others interested in remains buried in the cemetery abutting MacDonnell St that unless the remains are removed within three months and reburied in the new cemetery that the old fences be removed and the ground levelled for tree planting etc. Clerk & Cr Smith to peg out boundary. Tenders to be called for removing side fences, additional fencing & gates to enclose cemetery, clear land and plough.

BW 18 July 1891 – District Council. Discussion re old cemetery, removing tombs, grave fences, and levelling the ground, cemetery closed in 1885. The late Mr Doughty desired to have the remains of his wife removed some years ago. Matter deferred.

BW 15 Aug 1891 – District Council. Letter re grave of relative of Mr Doughty, inspected and found memorial stone broken and one side fence removed. Comm of Crown Lands wrote stating that the cemetery would be placed under the control of the Council if memorial stones, railings etc were in no way interfered with. Comm of Crown Lands asked to appoint a person to inspect and report on condition of the cemetery in view of the Council dealing with the land to make it an ornament to the town.

BW 17 Oct 1891 – Crown Lands wrote stating that the police reported that the railings around one of the graves in the old cemetery had been kept in order, and that if the Council allowed the memorial stone and the railings of this grave to remain the Commissioner would have the grounds placed under their control, Council accepted terms.

BW 21 Aug 1895 – The old cemetery is in a disgraceful state, it is said relatives of people who are buried there object to it being interfered with, but if they were to come and see it they would be pleased to see it beautified.

BW 16 Nov 1895 – Request that fence of old cemetery be repaired as cattle were continually trespassing on it.

BW 18 Jan 1896 –Tenders for repairing fence of old cemetery were considered to be too high.

Herald 25 Feb 1930 – Methodist minister Rev J Blackett in Ncte, staying with son in law Mr Leader who has purchased land at Struan. Rev Blackett has written volume about early history & settlement of country districts. He motored from Adel along Coorong to Kingston, where he worked for church 45 years ago, at Millicent prior to Kingston. He married Miss Fidler of Mt Gambier. First Fidler & Webb store in Ncte on corner where Mr Lehman's tinsmith shop now is, managed by A Attiwill. They then built two storey general store, now Union Bank premises. Mr Blackett visited both Ncte cemeteries. The first is situated on slope of hill on north side of MacDonnell St. He was somewhat disappointed in not finding many memorials there to old pioneers. **He found just one headstone there which was crumbling to ruins.** He deciphered on it the name of Mrs Doughty, and that she died in 1861. Mr Doughty was a resident of Ncte in the early days. Afterwards he was in business at Mt Gambier for many years as stock, station and commission agent, and was prominent in the life of that town. Some years ago there were a good many headstones there, some were stone and others wood, but after a new cemetery was established along the Border Town Road it became a neglected spot, and a number of years ago the District Council of Ncte decided to close it after giving notice to the relatives of persons buried there that their remains could be removed, but a son of Mrs Doughty objected to the closing of the cemetery and the Curator of Cemeteries wrote to the Council declining in consequence to authorise it being closed. The Council intended to make the cemetery a park, calling it Victoria Park, and planting it with trees. On Arbor Day the scholars attending the Ncte Primary school planted trees there.

Mr Blackett then made his way to the cemetery along Border Town main road and there met Mr Blacksell the sexton of the cemetery, and found him an interesting companion in going through it in connection with headstones there to many of the old pioneers of the district.

He also interviewed several old residents incl the Misses McIntosh, daughters of the late Wm McIntosh, founder of the township of Kincaig, now known as Narracoorte. He also met Mr D McLeod from whom he gleaned some useful information about the early history of Ncte. He met the Mayor Mr W Platt.

Herald 22 Sept 1931 – Ncte Corporation. Correspondence from Local Govt Dept, replying to letter from Council. Reserve of 4 acres, known as part of the old cemetery, dedicated as a reserve for public conveniences and place under the care of the Ncte Corp – Govt Gazette 1 March 1928, pages 453-4

Herald 6 Dec 1938 – Death Mrs Jessie Gordon MacDonald, 6th daughter of William MacIntosh from Scotland. Married James McDonald, son of Dr McDonald of Coleraine, lived near Robe on a station belonging to his brother, died suddenly at Dismal Swamp station near Kalangadoo. Presbyterian church; she lived with various relatives after death of husband. Ncte cemetery

William MacIntosh lived in district from 1848, settled on Ncte Station, later also Moy Hall. Had part of land surveyed into blocks, called it Kincaig after his birthplace, carried on storekeeping business where Eudunda Farmers store is now. He died 1906. **His wife predeceased him by many years, and we believe was laid to rest in the old cemetery in MacDonnell St**

6 daughters, one son (died in infancy) Mesdames Margaret Ottaway, John Lyall & MacDonald now dead, living are Mrs Tonkin (WA) & Misses Mary & Jean MacIntosh (live family home in Ncte)

Herald 8 Oct 1942 – Letter to District Clerk Mr A Humphris from Mrs H Sinclair of Barngo, Capella, Qld regarding grave of late Mrs Geo Doughty in old cemetery. Now gazetted as park lands, many trees planted there on Arbor Day but most failed to grow because of lack of water. The grave is enclosed by an iron fence, and the monument partly broken. Mrs Sinclair's letter stated she wanted the dates of birth & death for a family biography that was being written. Mrs Doughty was a sister of botanist & explorer Baron Ferd von Mueller. One corner of the headstone was broken off but did not interfere with the lettering, the inscription was quite clear. **“Sacred to the Memory of Bertha Freda Louise, the beloved wife of Charles Geo Doughty, aged 35 years, who died September 13th, 1861. Blessed are the dead who died in the Lord”**

Herald 22 Nov 1948 – Pioneer Park proposed for town. Old cemetery area to be converted. The Ncte Parks & Gardens committee plans for a Pioneer Park at the site of the old cemetery have been commended by the Council, and were adopted at their last general meeting. The plans provide for a general clean-up of the area which is bounded on four sides by streets - MacDonnell, Moore, Freeling and Pearson Streets - and the construction of terraced steps to a central pool and memorial to the pioneers of the Ncte district.

This area was originally used as a cemetery, the central section for Europeans, and the eastern sector for Austn natives. **Only one headstone remains, and this was erected in 1863.** Apparently no plan of the actual cemetery remains in existence, but the Parks and Gardens committee proposes to have a central memorial erected, with the names of those who were known to have been interred in the old cemetery either engraved on the monument or attached in the form of bronze plaques. It is also proposed to have a retaining wall on the northern side of the central area, with the names of the district pioneers attached in plaque form.

Informing the Council of the Parks and Gardens committee's recommendations at last week's meeting, the Mayor Mr NV Wallace said that the Chairman of the Committee, Cr RP Graystone had produced a first class plan for the old cemetery area. In the preparation of this he had been ably assisted by Mr Bramwell Brown. The speaker considered the adoption of the plan would mean quite an advance in the aesthetic life of Ncte. The Committee hoped to convert the whole area into a Memorial Park for the pioneers of the town and district. He could see no reason why within a few years the people should not have a beautiful garden in the old town of Ncte equal to, if not better than, the garden square in the old town of Kincaig.

Explaining the proposals in detail, Cr Graystone said that since the last Corporation meeting his committee had gone very fully into the matter of the old cemetery and had agreed upon a plan. The area was rather ugly at present, but it was proposed to make the entrance from MacDonnell Street and to beautify the whole area. A terrace would run east and west with paths leading up to a flat, central portion which would be paved and suitably walled. The northern portion of the wall would have bronze nameplates commemorating pioneers of the district. In the central area there would be a lily pond, and a monument indicating that the area contained the remains of some of the very early pioneers.

In conclusion Cr Graystone remarked that there would not be a great deal of construction work necessary – the whole job could be done under a long term policy. The Mayor remarked that the committee should be congratulated on their scheme, and other members concurred. It is not likely that the plans will be proceeded with this summer, but they have been adopted and as soon as the opportunity presents itself, this commendable scheme will be put into operation.

Herald 7 March 1949 – Mystery of Lone Grave Unraveled. Historic connection with early pioneers. The mystery **of the lone grave** which until recently was located in what was known as Ncte's "old cemetery" has at last been unravelled with the discovery of relatives living in both Sth Aust and Western Aust.

The significance of this discovery was all the more interesting when it was ascertained that the deceased person had a very close connection with important pioneers of this State and Victoria.

Recently the Ncte Corporation arranged to have the old cemetery (concerning which all records have been lost) converted into a public park, with a central memorial to pioneers of the district. **Only one grave remained,** and this was carefully moved, and the headstone and retaining fence were erected in the pioneer section of the new cemetery.

The grave was that of Mrs Bertha Frieda Doughty, who died at a comparatively early age, and was buried in 1863. Mrs Doughty was a sister of the late Baron Ferdinand von Mueller, world famous phytographist and explorer, and in honour of whom the Commonwealth Govt recently saw fit to issue a new postage stamp.

With Baron von Mueller, Bertha (Mrs Doughty) arrived at Port Adelaide on December 18, 1847. They were accompanied by another sister, Miss Clara von Mueller, who later married Doctor Wehl and settled at Mount Gambier. Mrs Doughty also settled at Mount Gambier with her husband, and both names are perpetuated in that town by the names of "Wehl Street" and "Doughty Terrace."

Daughters of Dr Wehl who still live in Adelaide are Mrs Henrietta Sinclair and Mrs Stenhouse of 165 Torrens Road, Woodville. The former recently left her temporary residence in Western Aust, and although 81 years of age, made an extensive tour by air of the principal cities and towns of Australia. She visited Mount Gambier a few months ago but was unable to come to Ncte. However a chance meeting with Mrs AG Wood of Ncte gave her the opportunity of learning details of the burial ground of Mrs Doughty, and now **Mrs Wood has forwarded a number of photos of the grave as it was originally situated in the old cemetery.**

Baron Ferdinand von Mueller KCMG, MD, PhD, FRS, son of the late Frederick and Louisa Mueller of Rostock, Germany, was born at Rostock in 1825, and was educated, after the death of his parents, in

Schleswig. He studied in Kiel, and examined extensively the vegetation of Schleswig and Holstein from 1840 to 1847, when on account of hereditary inclination to phthisis, he emigrated to Australia. Travelled throughout Sth Aust 1848-1852 in research of plants. In 1852 accepted office of Govt Botanist for Victoria, explored there until 1855. Joined expedition to Victoria River and northern parts of Aust as naturalist in 1856; to Moreton Bay. Director of Botanical Garden, Melbourne 1857-1873. Created hereditary baron by the King of Wurtemberg in 1871. Mountains, rivers & lakes named after him – Aust, New Zealand, Spitzbergen, Brazil. Died Melbourne 1895.

Herald 21 March 1949 – Ncte Corporation meeting. A Councillor queried the work being done on what has become known generally as “Pioneer Park” which was formerly the original Ncte cemetery. Cr DeGaris said he was perturbed concerning tree-planting in the old cemetery. Very big works were being undertaken there and the scarf cut across the park would need some protection to prevent sand drifting, and something would have to be done to keep the sand off the footpath. Perhaps this could be done by planting suitable grasses, but then they would have to be kept in order. Much money would have to be spent on this project and he did not know where the money would come from. Cr Beaton pointed out that the Parks and Gardens committee had been given authority to use all royalty received from the parklands and they already had £200 in hand, and of this amount £50 had been spent on the park in question. For the time being it was intended to prepare only to the first ridge and this could be achieved with the expenditure of another £5. The area would then be planted with grasses and trees. Cr DeGaris said he considered the Parks & Gardens committee should have made an estimate of the cost of this work. He feared that a tremendous amount of money would have to be spent there. It would be a very bad mistake to plant either buffalo grass or kikuyu grass there, as past experience had clearly shown. To keep this park in decent order it would require thousands and not hundreds of pounds. Cr Wortley pointed out that plans had been submitted and everyone had been enthusiastic about it, but perhaps an estimate of expenditure had not been presented. The opportunity was taken to do the work at the old cemetery when the Corporation’s vehicle was “in dock” to work the employees there. All the Council appeared to be short of was a financial plan. The Overseer intimated that the £50 cost mentioned by Cr Beaton was for labour only and did not include about £30 for machinery. He estimated that it would cost another £15 to plant the present area with suitable grasses. The Mayor Mr NV Wallace remarked that the Parks and Gardens committee had gone ahead with the money received from the sand-pit, and they should now provide a plan for the future.