

EDWARD VAGG
ENROLLED PENSIONER GUARD
LOT 230 WILLAGEE

From information in various sources, it would be possible to follow the story of an original land grant through entries on the Title, or family records. Some allocated lots stayed in the original grantee for many years being eventually subdivided by Council or land developers as the population expanded.

From research undertaken by Enrolled Pensioner Guard Group members, it is also possible to give 'life' to the original grantees.

Lot 230 Willagee Swamp was granted in 1885 to **Edward Vagg**. We now know Edward Vagg had a life. He was born in 1818 at Paddington, London and was 18 years 1 month old when he enlisted in the British Army at London on 24 June 1839. He was 5 feet 7 inches tall, with a fresh complexion, grey eyes and light brown hair. He joined the **15th Kings Regiment of Hussars**, Regimental number 1079. And so began 24 years and 98 days in the service of his country including 14 years 4 months service in East India including Bangalore and Madras. During that time, Private Vagg was awarded five Good Conduct Badges, which entitled him up to five pence a day extra pay for that good conduct record.

At his own request, Private Vagg resigned from the 15th Hussars on 12th September 1863 at Canagh Camp, Dublin. His name had not appeared in any Defaulters Book nor had he ever been tried in a Court Martial. His final discharge was recorded on 28th September 1863.

An ex British soldier with a good record was more than suitable to be enrolled as a guard for the convicts being transported to Western Australia. With his wife Jessie and four children, Edward Vagg joined the "Norwood" at Ft Tilbury on the 26 March 1867, for the long voyage to Fremantle. Unfortunately, during the voyage, the family lost a stillborn child

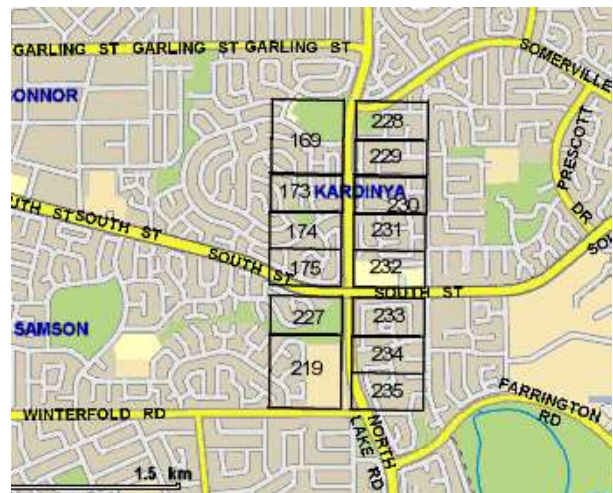
and they would have been relieved to arrive on 18 July 1867.

As a member of the Enrolled Pensioner Force, Edward Vagg would have been available to be called upon at any time to again serve his country while making some sort of living at his trade as a Sawyer. A further four children were born to Edward and his wife Jessie. Had the family been able to build a house and live on the land allocated to them?

Edward Vagg, ex British soldier, Enrolled Pensioner Guard, lived to the good age of 78 years, dying at Beaconsfield in 1896 His wife Jessie died in 1903.

There are still descendants of the Vagg family living in the area, a good 'march' distance from that original block of land granted as a reward for service.

Jean McDonald



References:

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