

Enrolled Pensioner Guard (EPG) John Gallagher's Convict Streak!

Today a convict ancestor is a badge of honour but once it was considered shameful, a "lower class" stain on family reputation. Similarly, EPGs were not welcome in "polite society", some behaved poorly and by the nature of their role they associated with "lowly convicts". Some EPGs forbade their daughters marrying the convicts they mixed with, viewing their military background a "class above". But love and opportunity transcend class and such marriages occurred.

Into this rapidly changing class divide, Scotsman John Gallagher, a 92nd Regiment private with 21 years' service, arrived on the 1853 Dudbrook.

As an EPG he and his family were sent north to the ill-fated Lynton convict depot. North of Geraldton, housed in tents near the Pink Lakes salt estuary they were exposed to bitter conditions of prevailing winds, heat, wet and cold, many deaths occurred. By 1856 Lynton was closed and land grants provided to EPGs in Greenough south of Geraldton. Here John farmed 32 acres, worked as a blacksmith and employed 5 convicts, his continuing relationship with convict labour. Sadly, John died 1866 leaving behind three daughters, each married at least one convict:

- Mary Ann 1853-1893 aged 13 marries convict 2868 Jonathon Coe, transported for house-breaking and larceny arriving WA on the 1854 Sea Park. She later marries convict 2277 Edward Hughes a larcenist who arrived 1853 on the Robert Small. Jonathon was a successful blacksmith and Hughes a carpenter and lodger at Mary Ann's Geraldton boarding house. Mary Ann did not have children.
- Janette Cecelia 1854-1936 marries convict 8280 Henry Grimshaw a larcenist arriving on the 1865 Racehorse. They lived Greenough Road; Henry employed 11 fellow convicts in a decade to 1884. He worked as a Champion Bay labourer, quarrier, railway stationer, contractor and Murchison goldfields oxen teamster. Variety is the spice of life!
- Margaret 1859-1926, marries convict 7054 James Clarke, convicted of serious assault, arrives on the 1863 Clyde. They have 11 children, live Geraldton and Northampton 1884. James works as a storeman, farmer, Murchison goldfields teamster and a Day Dawn miner.

The marriages of Convicts to daughters of EPGs bore fruit with thousands of descendants in WA today, no longer culturally cringeworthy but a rich and vital part of our history.

Check John out: <https://enrolledpensionerforcewa.org.au/epf-profiles/g/gallagher-john-92nd-regiment/>



Day Dawn (Cue)

Victoria, BY THE GRACE OF GOD, OF THE UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN AND IRELAND, QUEEN, DEFENDER OF THE FAITH, &c., &c., &c. TO ALL to whom these Presents shall come, Greeting. KNOW YE that We, of Our especial Grace, certain knowledge and mere motion, have given and granted, and WE do by these Presents, for Us, our heirs and successors, in consideration of *Military service heretofore performed by John Gallagher formerly a Private in our 9th Regiment of Foot but now of Greenough's Bata in our said Colony of Western Australia* Summe paid to the satisfaction of Our Comptroller of Our Colonies *John Gallagher* GIVE AND GRANT unto *John Gallagher*

ALL ^{the} ~~the~~ Tract or Parcel of Land situate and being in the *Victoria* District in our said Colony, containing *in the aggregate thirty three acres one ro and sixteen perches* more or less, AND marked and distinguished in the Maps and Books of the Survey Office of Our said Colony as *Victoria* Location *5 G 21 and G 22*. AND BOUNDED on the

The Victoria Location G 21 Bounded on the South West by six chains sixty seven links of Gregory Road extending North West from the West corner of Victoria location G 20, on the South East by a North East line of twenty five chains from aforesaid corner, and on the North East and North West by lines parallel and equal respectively to the South West and South East boundaries all bearings being true or thereabouts the measurements more or less, and a squared post at each corner of the location. *The Victoria location G 22* Bounded on the South West by six chains sixty seven links of Gregory Road extending North West from the West corner of Victoria location G 21, on the South East by a North East line of twenty five chains from aforesaid corner and on the North East and North West by lines parallel and equal respectively to the South West and South East Boundaries all bearings being true or thereabouts, the measurements more or less, and a squared post at each corner of the Location

Together with all Profits, Commodities, Hereditaments, and Appurtenances whatsoever thereunto belonging, or in anywise appertaining. TO HAVE AND TO HOLD the said Tract or Parcel of Land, and all and singular the Premises hereby granted, with their Appurtenances, unto the said *John Gallagher*

He heirs and assigns, for ever; he or they yielding and paying for the same to Us, our heirs and successors, one pepper-corn of yearly rent on the Twenty-fifth day of March in each year, or so soon thereafter as the same shall be lawfully demanded. PROVIDED, NEVERTHELESS, that it shall at all times be lawful for Us, our heirs and successors, or for any person or persons acting in that behalf by Our or their authority, to resume and enter upon possession of any part of the said Lands which it may at any time by Us, our heirs or successors, be deemed necessary to resume for making roads, canals, bridges towing-paths, or other works of public utility or convenience, and such Lands so resumed to hold to Us, our heirs and successors, as of our or their former estate; without making to the said *John Gallagher* his

JOHN'S LAND GRANT

WELCOME TO LYNTON

This convict hiring depot was established in 1853 to supply labour to the Geraldine Lead Mine, 40 miles North in the Murchison River bed. The depot was barely finished when it was closed in December 1856 due to the harsh living conditions and transport problems. Port Gregory, once heralded as "the port of the North" fell out of favour after several shipwrecks. The carting of ore by wagon from Geraldine to Port Gregory was an expensive 2 day journey over sandplain with the route a constant problem for the Geraldine Mining Company. When the Wanneroo Copper Mine (Northampton) opened in 1856 the route to Champion Bay (Geraldton) became a better option.

Please continue along the road (convict built Henderson Terrace) to Captain Sanford's Grand House and visit the mill for more information. These buildings contrasted markedly with the bleak living conditions of the Pensioner Guards and families. Many pensioner families were still in tattered tents after 2 years. Ruins of small cottages opposite the salt lake survive but are not accessible.

Five women from "the Bride Ships" were known to have arrived to Lynton.

Lynton remains the most intact example of a regional convict depot in Western Australia. Entered on the Register of the National Estate and vested in the Northampton Shire Council, conservation works are in progress via the Northampton Historical Society, (Property Management Committee). Your interest is welcome. Please explore, enjoy and sign the visitors book at the mill.

Other sites of interest: Kalbarri Whale Watch Tower, Geraldine Mine, Warribanno Smelter (the old chimney).

LYNTON HIRING STATION EST. 1853



The sites are fragile, precious and one of the State's most important archaeological sites. Please take care and keep off mounds.

