

THOMAS SWEENEY (SWEENEY) of CULLA HILL 1803-1867

1803 Thomas Son of Patrick and Mary Sweeney (Nee Kilmartin) born Tipperary Ireland - Patrick was a farmer (Thomas Sweeney's Death Certificate).

1823 Sunday 2nd March about Midnight.
Attack on the house of Patrick Guidera at Cullahill, Parish of Bourney, Barony of Ikerrin, County of Tipperary. Constable John Malone is wounded in the hip with a pitchfork (Service record).

1823 Friday 7th March 1823
Letter to William Gregory Esq. from J. Finch at the Royal Hospital Dublin.
Outrage

Sir,

I have the honor by desire of Lieutenant General Lord Combermere to transmit herewith for His Excellency The Lord Lieutenants information, copy of letter received by this mornings post from Captain Barwick of the 79th, reporting an attack to have been made on the House of a Man named Patrick Guydera, and the apprehension by the Police of three of the Assailants. -

I have the honor to be Sir Your most obedient humble Servant.

J. Finch.

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To the Military Secretary

Roscrea 6th March 1823

Sir,

I have the honor to inform you for the information of His Excellency Lieutenant General Lord Combermere Commander of the Forces the following occurrence in this neighbourhood. - On Sunday night the 2nd Instant, about 12 o'clock the House of Patrick Guydera of Cullahill in the Barony of Ikerrins was attacked by a party of armed men, who demanded a Gun and two Locks belonging to one Thady Coomion which they said he had he told them that the Gun was not at home but that he would give his oath to have it for them on a future night, they then required admittance into the House and on being refused threatened to burn to ashes the House and inmates as they had served the Sheas - they then set fire to it three several times and broke the door and windows endeavouring to force their way in - at this period the Police who had been apprised of the intended attack and were stationed in an out House rushed out and secured two of the Principals, one of whom Michael Connors styled himself Captain Rock and gave orders to the rest, - the other Thomas Sweeny had the tongs in his hand with which he had applied the fire to the thatch, and the next morning they took into custody the above named Thady Comion, who has been identified as one of the party - Information were taken by Captain Palmer who has fully committed three men to the gaol at Clonmell to abide their trial at the next assizes - Having joined from Leave of absence late on Tuesday Evening, the above account did not come under my observation 'till this day, and as I understand that it was not reported I consider it

my duty to do so now. I have ..

(Signed)

James Barwick,

Capt. 79th Regiment.

(National Archives, Dublin SOC 2518/9)

Saturday 8th March

LIMERICK CHRONICLE. 'On the night of Sunday last, the house of Patrick Guidera, of Cullohill, in the Barony of Ikerin, County of Tipperary, was attacked by a party of armed men, at about 12 o'clock; they demanded a gun and two locks which they said he had – he replied the gun was not at home, but that he would give his oath to have it for them on a future night; they required admittance into the house, and being refused they threatened to serve the inmates as they had served the Sheas; they then set fire to the house three several times and broke the door and two windows, endeavouring to force their way in. At this period Constable Malone, with a party of the Ikerrin police, stationed in an out-office on the advice of that active and intelligent officer Mr. MacDonagh, chief constable in Thurles who had been apprised of the intended attack, rushed out and secured two of the principals, one of whom, Michael Connors, styled himself *Captain Rock* and gave orders to the rest; the other, Thomas Sweeney, had the tongs in his hand with which he applied the fire to the thatch, and the next morning they took into custody Thady Comion, who has been identified as one of the party. Informations were taken by Captain Palmer, of Roscrea, who has fully committed the three miscreants to the jail at Clonmel, to abide their trial at the next assizes. It is but justice to observe, that since the arrival of Mr. Nash and the police in this Barony, it has, from their indefatigable exertions, though unassisted by the Insurrection Act, been brought to almost perfect tranquillity.' Note: Born in County Tyrone, Constable John Malone (1790-1875) was appointed a Constable in the Peace Preservation Force in 1815. He was sworn into the new Constabulary Police on Thursday 16th January 1823.

1823 Tuesday 25th March

Michael Connors and **Thomas Sweeny**, were charged under the Whiteboy Act, "for a felonious assault on the house of Patrick Guyder, at Cullohill, and with having set said house on fire". (Limerick Chronicle, March 29th 1823)

There are two townlands called Cullahill (Cullohill) in Tipperary North. The one in the Parish of Bourney, Barony of Ikerrin, had a property called Cullahill with owners Patrick and John Guidera. The second townland of Cullahill is in the Parish of Glenkeen about fourteen miles to the south west.

1823 Thursday 27th March

The sentence of the Clonmel Assizes was that Michael Connors and Thomas Sweeny, "for assaulting a habitation between sun-rise and sun-set" - "to be hanged on the 26th of April". (Limerick Chronicle, April 5th, 1823). This was subsequently commuted to transportation for life.

The Grand Jury, at the Assizes, resolved that "it is not possible to contemplate the quantity and character of crime, which has disgraced the calendar of the present Assizes in this County, without the deepest regret, and without feeling the vital necessity of a renewal of the Insurrection Act." (Limerick Chronicle, April 5th, 1823)

1823 Saturday, 29th March

Letter to William Gregory Esq from Edward Wilson at Thurles.

Sir,

I have the honor to acquaint you that I returned last night from the assizes of Clonmel.....

There were six persons received Sentences of Death, three of whom were for Maliciously Burning Houses and were apprehended by Constables almost in the fait - A Subscription was entered into by the Grand Jury for purchasing a Gold medal for Constable Malone who I had given charge of a party to and they also presented Ten Pounds to him and a guinea to each of the other Constables and suggested the propriety of my representing the person who gave me private Information in order Government might reward him. His Name is Patrick Ryan who you gave Ten pounds to before on a similar occasion. There were however two Brothers concerned in this Business. Suppose Patrick was to get Ten Pounds and his Brother five. They certainly deserve it.

I have the Honor to be sir

Your most obedient and very humble Servant. Edward Wilson.(National Archives, Dublin, SOC 2518/13)

Note 1: In reference to the Ryan brothers mentioned above, the Griffiths Valuation for the Parish of Bourney dated Jan. 1851 shows Patrick Ryan and John Ryan bracketted together as tenants of George Roe of Loran Park just north-west of Cullahill House. There is also an entry showing that John and Patrick Ryan lease a house to Catherine Ryan worth 10/- annually.

Note 2: While Michael Connors, captured with Thomas Sweeney called himself 'Captain Rock', there were various instances of the name in different counties and regions. This suggests 'Captain Rock' was widely used to designate the leader of a group of Whiteboys. In mid-March 1823 notices appeared in the Barony of Duhallow, Co. Cork signed 'Captain Rock'.

A PROCLAMATION (as reported in the Limerick Chronicle March 29th 1823)

"TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

It is hoped that no person will display the rudeness of taking down this Paper until Satisfactorily read, the Motive of it being, to preserve from Ruin Property life and Family, by acquainting the Publick of a few Capital Errors which ought to be particularly Avoided as the ignorance of them might lead People Blindfolded to be Hurlled down the Steep and Rugged precipice of Destruction - Behold my Sword is unsheathed to mow down Offenders my fire is kindled every night to consume their property my Resolution is fixed. Therefore I hope, that no person will be so Infatuated as thro a violation of my laws to lay his Head on the Block or thrust himself and all his possessions into the flame that opens widely. It's devouring firey laws to Swallow up all cursed transgressors. Let no Person consider that the Rigours of English Laws will suffer to protect an offender of my Regulations. No, for a Gallows filled with radicals or a Ship laden with White Boys cannot intimidate the Heart of a true United Irishman, inflamed by the Spirit of Liberty. 'Tis true we have been deprived of some of our Associates by Hanging and transportation, but this has only Encreased our Strength, as weeding a Garden encourages the Growth of the Genuine plant. Consequently I expect that due Adherance will be paid to the following Articles as the Violation of any of them deserves shooting and burning besides several other Excruciating Tortures -

Article 1st - That no person or persons shall propose for or take into his possession directly or indirectly any house, Farm, or lot of Lands, Wrested from a tenant by his landlord, until the Expiration of 7 years after the Ejection.

2nd - That no person shall pay Tithe money to the Minister or any person acting under him.

3rd - That no Wolfish Proctor shall sue for tithe money.

4th - That no person shall serve a process or processes for Tithe Money.

Any person or persons transgressing any of these will suffer Shooting Burning &C, &c, &c.

N.B. A veracious Minister screams aloud Dreary Tartarus for a Merciless Proctor or for Sworn Process Servers let Chas. McCarthy Barrett and Darird prepare as they are considered very fit person to fill a Situation in Hell.

Captain Rock

By the Grace of God."

1823 Wednesday 14th May

Thomas Sweeney and Michael Connors leave Clonmel Gaol under escort bound for the Convict Depot at Cork and are later transferred to the Hulk 'Surprise'. A former Royal Navy Frigate of 38 guns, it had been built at Milford shipyards in 1812. It was modified as a hulk in 1822-23.

1823 Wednesday 6th August

The Convict Transport 'Isabella' I (3) arrives at the Cove of Cork (Cobh), having departed London 17th July. According to the Surgeon's Journal, it was in the 'British Channel' on 1st August (AJCP film).

1823 Thursday 14th August

Isabella I (3) sails for New South Wales having taken on board 200 male convicts from the Prison Hulk 'Surprise'. In their place 186 prisoners were moved from Convict Penitentiary in Cork to the Hulk aboard the steam packet 'Waterloo' on Monday morning the 11th of August.

The 579 ton ship 'Isabella' was built on the Thames in 1818. The master was John Wallis and the surgeon William Rae.

William Rae's Journal gives a detailed account of conditions on the voyage and also of the tensions. "Considering the crew I had to labour amongst and that Disease and Mutiny were at one time opposed to me, I trust it will be found that I have not been unsuccessful in combatting either and that our ultimate loss has been much less than circumstances at an early period of the voyage led me to suppose".

1823 Wednesday 17th December

Isabella Convict Ship, Sydney Cove

Letter to Governor

We have to inform your Excellency that in the course of our voyage hither we had the good fortune to uncover a dangerous mutiny which was on the eve of breaking out amongst the Prisoners, and but for timely prevention would certainly have ended in much bloodshed. For the information we are mainly indebted to a prisoner of the name of Francis Keefe, who at the risk of his own life, concealed himself whilst he wrote a short note containing the information - This Plot, from all the credible evidence we have been able to collect concerning it, had been matured

by a few of the worst characters and they had evinced some degree of cunning in poisoning the minds of their, perhaps, less desperate associates with the idea of money being on board which was to be distributed amongst those who should most distinguish themselves. Keefe is a man superior to most of the prisoners and has conducted himself with much propriety and none of the Ringleaders have ever attempted to invalidate his evidence.

Situated as we have all been we should be guilty of an act of injustice if we did not recommend this individual in the Strongest manner to your Excellency's notice we subjoin the names of the Principal Ringleaders and have the honor to be

Your Excellency's

Very Obedt. Humble Servants

William Rae, Surgeon Superintendent

Frederick A. Hely, Principal Superintendent of Convicts

John Wallis, Master, Isabella

Ringleaders names: Chas Denato, James Kelly, Pat Brennan, Denis Brennan, James Lawler, Wm. Cowen, Pat McNamara.

Ref. Archives office of New South Wales - Fiche No. 6056 page 227, no.76

Note 1 Francis Keefe was granted an immediate Ticket of Leave on arrival in Sydney.

Note 2: Denato, Kelly, Lawler and the two Brennans were all sent to Port Macquarie. Denato died there in January 1824 and Dennis Brennan in December 1824.

1823 Thursday December 18th

"Ship News - Tuesday last arrived from Cork which she left in August last, the ship Isabella, Captain Wallis. She brings hither 190 male prisoners. Five died on the passage, the complement being originally 195. The guard comprises a detachment of the 40th under the command of Lieutenant Millar, who is accompanied by his Lady and family. The Surgeon Superintendent is Dr. Rae, R.N., who came here this time last year on the Eliza." Lieutenant Henry Miller (1785-1866) selected the site for Moreton Bay settlement (later Brisbane) on 30th September 1824. His son Henry Miller, born Londonderry 1809, became Victoria's famed 'Money Miller'.

1823 Thursday December 18th

FOR SALE, on board the ship Isabella, Sixty Tons of strong Casks, fit to hold Oil, 180 gallons each; one Coir Cable and one Rope Cable; and an excellent Milch Cow, in Calf. Apply Captain Wallis.

1823 Thursday 18th December

Supplement to Sydney Gazette.

CAPTAIN Wallis, of the Ship Isabella, hereby Cautions the Inhabitants against giving Credit to the Crew of the said Vessel, as he will not be responsible for any Debts by them contracted.

1823 Friday 19th December .

Convicts from the Isabella mustered on deck to be inspected by Frederick Goulburn Esquire, the Colonial Secretary on behalf of His Excellency the Governor. Of the original 200 convicts embarked, five died on the voyage and 28 were sent to hospital on landing, leaving 167 to be mustered. The official indent describes Thomas Sweeny as a ploughman, tried at Clonmel Assizes, 26th March 1823, aged 21, native of County Tipperary, height 5 ft. 8 in., eyes dark grey, hair brown, complexion brown, behaviour and health "Very Well". Thomas Sweeny was assigned to the young English settler James Chandler who had arrived in Sydney on the Surry on Sunday 24th September 1820. The Reverend Ralph Mansfield a passenger on the same ship described him as "a serious young gentleman". Chandler was soon on good terms with leading citizens and was keen to invest in property. He was well educated, a devout churchman and also had money. On March 26th 1822 he purchased 100 acres of land at £1 per acre. This property was known as Sylvester's Farm and was in the basically undeveloped country to the north-west of Botany Bay. In July 1822 Chandler petitioned Governor Brisbane for a grant of land. Frederick Goulburn the Colonial Secretary replied a month later:

"I am directed by His Excellency Sir Thomas Brisbane to inform you..that He will make you a Grant of Twelve Hundred (1200) Acres of Land in any part of the Colony already surveyed and will order four convict servants to be assigned to you who, with yourself, will be victualled from the King's Stores for six months from the date of your taking possession of the said Land."

James Chandler decided to call his property 'Bexley'.

1824, Thursday 22nd April Sydney Gazette p.4.

Ten Dollars Reward - Whereas on Sunday the 11th Inst., two Savings Bank Receipts of One Pound each belonging to my Government assigned, Servant Thomas Sweeny, were stolen from the Men's Hut on my Farm at Bexley, near Cook's River; This is to give Notice, that I am willing to pay the above Reward on recovery of the Individual who presented them to Payment, and endorsed the Name of the said Thomas Sweeny upon the back, as an acknowledgement.

James Chandler

1825 Muster of all convicts in NSW

Thomas Swainey, Isabella, 1823, Life, Govt. Servant to John Brown Liverpool.

1828 Tuesday 7th October

Bridget Coleman wife of convict James Coleman (ship Earl St.Vincent 1823) arrives on the ship Sir Joseph Banks with daughters Mary, Bridget, Rose and Winifred.

1828 November

Census of NSW Bridget Coleman aged 19 who came free on the Sir Joseph Banks is a servant to Andrew and Maria Byrne of O'Connell Street, Sydney. Her mother Bridget and three sisters were housed at the 'old Customhouse' from their arrival.

- 1828 November** Thomas Sweeney, Ploughman assigned to George Brown, Settler Dapto - Wollongong; Recorded in NSW Census - Age 25, arrived Isabella 1823
- 1830 29th January**
Sarah (14 ton) wooden one-masted cutter built in 1829 at Brisbane Water for Mr Anderson (noted in press reports but not registered) arrives in Sydney from Brisbane Water. (*Ref. Ships of Australia and N.Z. before 1850 Pt.2. by Ronald Parsons. 1983*)
- 1830 16th November**
Coastal vessel, 'George' 10 tons, Sweeney, Master, Illawarra (Syd. Gaz).
- 1831 31st July**
Thomas Sweeney obtains Ticket of Leave (no. 31/969) which allows him to stay in the district of Illawarra.
- 1832 Tuesday 14th February**
List of Coastwise Vessels from the Sydney Gazette outwards Sydney between 6th and 13th February.
"Mary Ann, 11 tons, Sweeney, Illawarra, ballast"
- 1832 Tuesday 11th December**
List of Coastwise Vessels from the Sydney Gazette inwards Sydney between 16th November to 10th December.
"Mary Ann, 10 tons, Sweeney, Illawarra, cedar"
(Note: This 24th recorded voyage of the Mary Ann with Sweeney as Master)
- 1832 Thursday 13th December**, Sydney Gazette, Vol. XXX, No. 2219.
Colonial Secretary's Office, Sydney, 10th December, 1832. His Excellency the Governor has been pleased to direct the following Acts of the last Session of Parliament to be published for general information. ANNO SECUNDO & TERTIO. GULIELMI IV. REGIS. CAP. LX11.
"An Act for abolishing the Punishment of Death in certain cases and substituting a lesser Punishment in lieu thereof." (11th July 1832)
(Part II) 'An be it further enacted, That neither the Governor or Lieutenant governor of any Island, Colony, or settlement, or any other Person, shall give any Pardon or Ticket of Leave to any Person sentenced to transportation, or who shall receive a Pardon on condition of transportation, or any order or permission to suspend or remit the labour of any such Person, if except in cases of illness, until such Person, if transported for seven years, shall have served four; if transported for fourteen years, shall have served six; or transported for life, shall have served eight years of labour; and that no such Person shall be capable of acquiring or holding any property, until after such Person shall have duly obtained a Pardon from the Governor or Lieutenant Governor of the Colony or Settlement in which he or she shall have been confined: Provided that nothing herein contained shall in any manner affect His Royal Majesty's Royal prerogative of mercy.'
Note: This section two of the Act of 11th July 1832 directly affected Thomas Sweeney in that he could not legally hold land or livestock and it would seem, ownership of trading boats or goods for trade. This placed him at the mercy of

free citizens and gave him no legal redress if anyone stole from him or refused to honour agreements.

1832 Tuesday 25th December Letter in the Sydney Gazette

‘To Ticket of Indulgence Holders, Emancipists, and others who have become free, Fathers of Families particularly, and Men who wish well to this Country. The undersigned feeling much alarmed from what he saw published in the Sydney Gazette of the 13th instant, respecting the alternations about to take place, which alterations will destroy the privileges, if not to us under the old, that of those who may come under the new law, which, in my humble opinion, will very much lower the prosperity of this delightful and growing country, call on all men whom it may concern to come forward and sign a very humble memorial to His Excellency the Governor, that our case may be properly represented to the Home Government, to prevent any alterations taking place respecting tickets of indulgence here. Should this meet your wishes generally, you will signify the same by letter from each district, in the *Sydney Gazette*, within one month, and application will be made to the proper authorities for Leave to hold a public meeting in Sydney for the purpose.

I am, gentlemen,
Your's faithfully,
A FRIEND.

1833 Thursday 24th January

List of Coastwise Vessels from the Sydney Herald.

Sweeney both arrives and departs Sydney with sundries to and from Illawarra in the 14 ton sloop Venus. This boat is given as being built at Brisbane Water NSW in 1833 but was probably built late 1832. It was 29.6 feet long and in 1837 is given as belonging to John Mackie the well-known ships master and owner. In May 1839 it was owned by Alfred Saunders and Thomas Croft of Wollongong. (Ships of Australia and N.Z. Part 2, p. 78)

Note Advertisement in The Sydney Herald, Thursday 15th November 1832.
For Sale or Charter

The Colonial-built Cutter "Venus" now lying at the Market-wharf. This Vessel is of superior strength, of the best seasoned timber, well calculated for the cedar trade as she stows a large cargo, carries 18 tons coals, and can be sent to sea immediately; her sails and rigging perfectly new. For particulars apply to Robert Cox, Market-Wharf.

October 9th 1832

Note:

A cutter at this time would likely carry up to four sails, the mainsail, maintopsail, foresail and jib. Some of the smaller craft had larger jibs and no foresail. In a cutter the bowsprit projected forward horizontally and could generally be retracted. Cutters in the coastal trade were usually square sterned with a single deck. They likely carried a small rowboat for communication with the shore when no wharf was available.

1833 Sunday, 18th February

Marriage of Thomas Sweeny (Isabella) and Bridget Coleman (Sir Joseph Banks). at St.Mary's Cathedral, Sydney.

Witnesses John Culahan, Miss Mary Welsh & Patk. Garrigan
(Certificate states "Promised retribution" above date of marriage.).
See entry for 6th March.

1833 Wednesday, 6th March

Permission Granted for Thomas Sweeney (Isabella 3) aged 30, Life sentence to marry Bridget Coleman Priest Rev J. McEncroe, Sydney.

1833 Mary Sweeny believed to have been born in Sydney, daughter of Thomas Sweeny and Bridget Coleman who were married in February 1833.

1833 Tuesday 2nd April

List of Coastwise Vessels from the Sydney Gazette. Outwards from Sydney between 18th March and 1st April.
"Sarah, 14 tons, Sweeney, Illawarra, sundries."

1833 Tuesday 16th April

List of Coastwise Vessels from the Sydney Gazette. Inwards Sydney between 1st April to 15th April
"Sarah, 14 tons, Sweeney master, Illawarra, sundries"

1833 Tuesday 18th June

List of Coastwise Vessels from the Sydney Gazette. Outwards between 5th June to 17th June.
"Sarah, 14 tons, Sweeney, Illawarra, sundries."

1833 Wednesday, 3rd July

Entry in "The Paulsgrove Diary - Illawarra 1833-1834" (Edward Smith) as follows:

`Walk to Wollongong (to send a parcel to Sydney) and from thence to Palamba then paid Sweeney a bill for Mr Spearing of £2.2s, a order for Mr. Lord for 7s and an order for Mr [] for £1.,15s Sent a letter and a newspaper to my brother Charles and a book to Mr. St.[].

1833 Thursday 4th July

"The ewes came home from Palamba. Sweeney's vessel the Sarah sail'd for Sydney." (Paulsgrove Diary).

1833 Monday 29th July

"Reciev'd by Sweeney's boat a parcel of Newspapers from Charles by favour Mr Apelton, also some from Isle of Wight by Mr Joliffe a letter from Sister Betsy, one from Charles and three from Mr T. Harvey."(Paulsgrove Diary)

1833 Wednesday 31st July:

"Wrote to Brother Richard by Sweeney Boat enclosed to Mr Williams - Lambs 116." (Paulsgrove Diary)

1833 Thursday 1st August

The Memorial of Thomas Sweeny, of Wollongong,
To Frederick A. Hely, Esquire,

J.P.principal Superintendent of Convicts &c, &c, &c.
redirected to His Excellency the Governor (33/5647 27th August 1833)
The humble Memorial of Thomas, Sweeny, who arrived per Ship, Isabella, the
Third, Most Respectfully Sheweth,
That your Honor's, humble Memorialist hold the indulgence of a Ticket of Leave
for the District of Wollongong and is married to a young woman who with Her
Family arrived Free in this Colony.

That your Honor's humble Memorialist has through Good Conduct and hard
labour acquired means which He appropriated to the purchase of One Hundred
Acres of Land with Fifty head of Cattle and also a Share in a Boat called Sarah
now in full Trade between here and Sydney.

That your Honor's humble Memorialist is solicited to take charge of his Vessel,
by the several inhabitants of the District on Consequence of their property,
been intrusted to the Care of Strangers,

That your Honor's, humble memorialist, been restricted by the order
promulgated against Ticket of Leave Holders, although your Memorialist is now
building a vessel of Thirty Five Tons; Burthen, which will be fit to Launch in a
few months.

That your Honor's humble memorialist has a Grown Family to whose
prosperity he looks forward Under the Foregoing Circumstances, your
Memorialists take leave to approach your honor with this his Memorial, humbly
hoping of your Honor, may be pleased to Grant your Memorialist a pass or Such
Liberty to Trade too and from hence to Sydney,

And for which Act of Your Honors, Commiseration, your Honor's Memorialist
as in duty Bound Will Ever Pray.

Thomas Sweeny
Wollongong the 1st of August 1833.

I believe Thomas Sweny to be a very honest man, & if the existing regulations
allow of any Ticket of Leave man to manage a Boat between this and Sydney. I
feel bound to recommend him for that Indulgence.

Police Office Wollongong 2nd August 1833
F. Allman J.P. Resident Magistrate.

I see no objection to this man being allowed a similar privilege to the Bathurst
and Argyle Carriers in being permitted to trade to and fro.
The Governors decision in Abstract.(August 22nd, 1833)

Allowed Mr Hely 14 December 1833.

1833 Friday 2nd August

Kill'd a bullock. Lambs 114, Ewes 418. Sweeny's vessel sail'd to Sydney.
(Paulsgrove Diary)

1833 Saturday 10th August

Receiv'd 1 lb of Powder a bag of Shot percussion caps from Sydney by Sweeny. The wethers brought home from Towroger strong wind in the evening ground 2 bushels of wheat. (Paulsgrove Diary)

1833 - 15th August

Thomas Sweeny petitions his Excellency the Governor for an early pardon.
33/397

"To his Excellency, Major General Richard Bourke, Captain General, Vice Admiral, Governor and Commander in Chief in and over the Territory of New South Wales, and its Dependencies &c, &c., &c...

The Humble Memorial of Thomas Sweeny a prisoner for Life holding the indulgence of a Ticket of Leave.

Most Respectfully Sheweth, That your Excellencys humble Memorialist arrived on the Ship Isabella the 3rd in the year 1823, in this colony for ribonism.

That your Excellency's humble Memorialist, has acquired Considerable property, through Great exertion hard labour and honest industry, and is now building a craft or Vessel of Forty Tons burthen: at Wolongong in the District of Illawarra, where Memorialist purchased a Farm of one Hundred Acres of Land, with Fifty head of horned cattle; also half a Small Vessel; called the Sarah; now in full Trade between here and Sydney.

1833 That your Excellency's humble Memorialist, is married to a young woman, who with her Family arrived free in this Colony and by whom Memorialist has a Growing Family, with no desire to return to his native Land, Ireland.

That your Excellency's humble Memorialist has not been Guilty of any Crimes, misdemeanor or offences Since his arrival in the Colony, Testimonials of which your Excellency's humble Memorialist, has the honor of submitting for your Excellency's perusal.

That under the foregoing circumstances your Excellency's humble Memorialist; respectfully, presumes to approach your Excellency, with this his Memorial; humbly hoping that your Excellency may be pleased to admit your Excellency's humble Memorialist to Share in your Excellency's High and Philanthropic Consideration, by deigning to recommend your Excellency's Memorialist to His Most Gracious Majesty, King William the Fourth, for a Conditional Pardon, or such Liberty as in your Excellency Wisdom may seem. And for which Act of your Excellency humanity, Your Excellency's humble Memorialist in Gratitude and duty bound, Will Ever Pray.

Testimonials on Memorial 33/397

During my residence in this District I have always found the petitioner to be an orderly, honest and industrious man, he was strongly recommended by Lt. Sleeman to me and I believe him very deserving.

F. Allman J.P.
Resident Magistrate

C. Waldron J.P.

Note: Captain Francis Allman, (1780-1860) was Commandant and Police Magistrate at Wollongong from September 1832 to March 1834. . Captain Charles Waldron of "Spring Hill" Wollongong died on 28th January 1834.

As the petitioner appears to bear a very good character and to conduct himself respectably, I beg leave respectfully to recommend his petition to the favourable consideration of His Excellency.

Wm. Ullathorne

A.B. Spark

Note: Dr. William Ullathorn (1806-1889) was one of the pioneer Catholic clergy. He was appointed Vicar General of Dr Polding and in the Late 1830s recruited priests and nuns from Ireland. Alexander Brodie Spark (1792-1856) was a well-known Sydney business man.

The Petitioner Since I knew him has done business for me by conveying in his Boat goods to and from Sydney and I always found him most correct. He bears a most Excellent Character as being an Industrious and Honest Fellow
Henry Osborne

Note: Henry Osborne (1803 -1859) born Co. Tyrone settled at "Marshall Mount", 12 miles from Wollongong in c.1830. He died one of the richest men in Australia. Henry Osborne was in partnership with Cornelius Wholohan in the 34 ton one masted cutter "Daniel O'Connell" said to be built in Illawarra in 1835. This could have been the "35/40 ton vessel" being built by Thomas Sweeney in 1833.

The notation on the Memorial states:

Thomas Sweeny per Ship Isabella (3) arrived 16 December 1823 was tried at Tipperary Co. Spring Assizes 1823 - Life - Obtained a Ticket of Leave No.31/969 Dated 29 Nov. 1831 for Illawarra with which he regularly musters.

T.R.

The governors decision in abstract was that Thomas Sweeny was not yet entitled to a Pardon. Signed Mr. Hely Superintendent of Convicts 11 January 1834

1833 Friday 24 September

List of Coastwise Vessels from the Sydney Gazette inwards Sydney between 14th September to 21st September
"Sarah, 14 tons, Sweeney , Illawarra, cedar."

1834 21st March

Notation on Thomas Sweeny's Ticket of Leave

The Holder of this Ticket is permitted to voyage between Illawarra & Sydney for trading purposes - (signed) Alexr. McLeay, Col. Secys. Office

1834 Friday 6th June, Thomas Sweeny of Sydney, Mariner, assigns lease of property (warehouse?) in Kent Street, Sydney to Isaac Simmons, Merchant.

Description of the Lands or Property conveyed: All that piece or parcel of land containing five rods be the same more or less situate in Kent Street bounded on the North by Thomas Cooper premises two rods on the East by Kent Street forty

two feet on the West by other land belonging to the said William Charles Wentworth forty two feet and on the South by a lane.
Consideration and how paid: £50 (No. 95 Book G Memorial)

1834 Wednesday 30th July

Thomas Sweeny sworn as a witness at the Illawarra Magistrates Bench. He swears that he gave an axe to John Benson (Convict Ship Recovery 1st) The prisoner has been accused of stealing it along with other tools. The Magistrate is Henry Osborne, J.P. Thomas signs his name the same signature we see on all subsequent documents including his 1867 will.

1835 Friday 17th April, Patrick Sweeny (1) born son of Thomas Sweeny ship Isabella by his wife Bridget Coleman ship Sir Joseph Banks, - baptised St. Mary's Cathedral Sydney 3rd May 1835.(No.593, Volume 129). Sponsors Cornelius Hooligan and Miss Mary Welsh (Sponsor may be Cornelius Wholohan of Illawarra who is associated with Thomas Sweeney).

1835 8th August, 1835

Petition to His Excellency Lieutenant General Sir Richard Bourke, Knight Governor and Commander in Chief in and over the Colony of New South Wales and its Dependencies.

The Humble petition of Thomas Sweeny, holder of the Ticket of Leave here unto annexed. Respectfully Sheweth - That Your Excellency's Petitioner has hitherto maintained his family (a wife and two children, by trading in or voyaging with Cedar between Sydney and Illawarra: That in that quarter the same trade has declined and your humble Petitioner has resolved to employ himself in future in voyaging between Sydney and the Manning River or those ports to the Northward where the cedar is more plentiful and employment more certain (if your Excellency will be kind enough to permit him.

Petitioner humbly prays Your Excellencys allowance of his Ticket of Leave being made available to admit of his voyaging and trading between Sydney and the Manning River.

"The Petitioner is a man of good character and very industrious also.....

WMS Gray - Police Magistrate

35/5899 8th August 1835 35/272

Governors note reads:

I have no objection to the permission being changed so as to allow Sweeny to voyage between Sydney and the Manning River but he must be given to understand that he cannot be allowed to cut cedar without a license which will not be given to any but free persons.

Dated 31st October 1835 signed RB (Richard Bourke)

The Ticket of Leave was then marked as follows:

"Allowed by the Colonial Secretary's letter No.35/613 dated 9 November 1835, Trade between the Manning River and Sydney but not allowed to cut cedar. "

1836 12th November

36/9239

Principal Superintendent's Office

11th November 1836 36/431

Sir,

I have the honor to submit for the commands of the Governor the enclosed letter from the Police magistrate at Port Macquarie recommending that the pass given under the authority of your letter No.30/613 of the 9th November 1835 to the Convict named in the margin [Thos Sweeny per "Isabella"] to trade between Sydney and the Manning River may be cancelled for the reasons stated. The prisoner has reported himself at my office. I have the honor to be, Sir, Your Most Obedient Servant.

- c1836** Bridget Sweeney daughter of James and Bridget Coleman is said to have drowned in the Parramatta River. The fate of her son Patrick Sweeney is not known. Her daughter Mary Sweeney came to port Phillip about 1844.
- 1837** New South Wales Post Office Directory
Thomas Sweeney, Kent Street, Sydney
- 1838** **15th February**
Conditional Pardon Granted to Thomas Sweeny, Isabella 3
Listed in the Secretary of States dispatch 11th August 1838
- 1838** **Monday 23rd April**
Marriage of Thomas Sweeney of Sydney to Margaret Meihan of Sydney at St.Mary's Church by John McEncroe. Witnesses, Daniel Meehan and Peter Bodecin (Note: Peter Bodecin or Bodicin settles in Melbourne in mid-1838).
- Wednesday 12th September** Port Phillip Census - Thomas Sweney, Mrs. Sweney. There is also a Padey Sweeney listed.
- Thursday 6th December**
Patrick Sweeney, son of Thomas Sweeney and Margaret Meehan born Melbourne. Family tradition says he was born in Flinders Street.
- 1839** **Wednesday 15th May**
Port Phillip Gazette lists subscribers to a fund for the establishment of a Catholic Chapel in Melbourne, including Thomas Sweeney.
- 1839** **Sunday 26th May**
Patrick Sweeney baptised by Rev. P.B. Geoghegan O.D.F. at second mass held in Port Phillip. Patrick is sixth entry on Register of St.Francis Church, Melbourne. Sponsors, Patrick Whelan and Johanna Hayes.
- 1840** **29th July, Port Phillip Gazette**
Returns of persons licensed to depasture stock in the Districts of Melbourne and Geelong, from 1st to 30th June 1840. Period of license from 1st July to 30th June: Thomas Sweeney, 1840-1841
- 1841** **Thursday 11th March**
Census for the Year 1841. Thomas Sweeney, Yarra Yarra. Six persons living in a wooden dwelling. One male child (Patrick) and five adults. Thomas and

Margaret have two males aged over 45 living with them, and one under 45. This was on the south side of the Yarra in the parish of Boroondara. It seems they occupied allotment No. 53 of section No. 16, a holding of one hundred and forty-six acres. When this allotment was offered for sale in August 1845, the government notice stated that it contained a hut and stockyard, with ten acres in cultivation and a brush fence. By 1842, the neighbour on allotment No. 52 section No. 16 was John Walker.

1841 Tuesday 11th May Port Phillip Herald

Thomas Sweeny on list of persons who have paid money into the Treasury at Melbourne for the purchase of land. (T. Sweeny [not selected] 100 acres). Thomas had brought capital from Sydney or had raised it in Port Phillip.

1841 Wednesday 19th May

Twins Catherine Agnes (Kate) and Margaret Augustina born to Thomas Sweeney and Margaret Meehan at Boroondara (location later East Kew).

1841 Sunday, 27th June

Catherine (Kate Agnes) Sweeney baptised St. Francis Church, Sponsors Robert Hays and Margaret Hays. Celebrant Michael Ryan.

1842 12th April

Letter from Thomas Sweeney resident of Melbourne asking leave to purchase land on the South Bank of the Yarra for the £100 deposited by him in the Sub Treasury.

1842 25th April

Letter to Mr. Patrick [Thomas] Sweeney - "Sir, in reference to your memorial dated the 12th April. I regret that it is out of my power to comply with the request contained in it, but, I beg to refer you the Land Board who will give every information how you can use your £100 under present regulations. Signed C.J. LaTrobe.

1842 Saturday 21st May

Second Letter from Thomas Sweeney resident of Melbourne asking advice how to apply £100 invested in a land purchase.

Sunday 22nd May

First Mass at St Francis Church celebrated by Fr. Michael Stephens O.S.A. A large crowd in attendance (Report in The Melbourne Times of 28th May).

1842 6th June

Letter from Thomas Sweeney wishing to have a portion of land in the Parish of Nillumbik - "allowed and handed to the Sub Treasurer on 9th June - The Land Board 7th June.

1842 23rd December

Letter to Survey Office Melbourne
Sir,

With reference to the Colonial Secretary's letter of the 10th Instant No.580 calling your Honor's attention to the Return forwarded in your letter of 24th September last 42/1302 of all lands sold under the Regulations of the 21st January 1841; and requesting to be informed of the number of Lot and date of advertisement of the two portions names in the margin.

I do myself the honor to enclose you the copy of two letters which I addressed to the Surveyor General at the time I reported the selection in question by which your Honor will observe that they were never advertised your Honor will no doubt recollect of your having been induced to direct the subdivision of two larger portions in the Parish of Nillumbik so as meet the wishes of Mr Beale (Mr Lindsay's agent) and other holders of small land orders.

I may observe for your information that the Parish of Nillumbik including the section out of which these lots were taken was advertised for sale under the uniform price system since the 21st February 1841 but from the land having been laid out principally in very large quantities and being of an inferior quality only one entire section has been disposed of under the Regulations of 21st January, 1841.

Signed Robert Hoddle Surveyor.

Margin:

Thomas Sweeny of Yarra Yarra
110 acres Bourke - Nillumbik
allotment No.7 of section No.5.

John Lindsay of Lewisham Kent,
160 Acres Bourke - Nillumbik
Portion No.4 of section No. 15.

1843 6th January

Letter received January 1843

Report related to land selected by Messrs Sweeny and Lindsay, Melbourne 27th December 1842.

To the Honorable The Colonial Secretary

In reply to your letter of the 10th of December requesting me to furnish information on the subject of two lots of land noted in the margin included in my return of all lands sold in the district of Port Phillip under the regulations of 21st January 1841 - I have the honor to enclose copy of a letter which I have received from the Surveyor in charge on the subject from which his Excellency will perceive that the two portions in question were in subdivisions of large lots, and were consequently never advertised in the form in which they were selected.

I beg to call to your recollection, that the subdivision of section No.15 in the parish of Nillumbik, was made on the application of Mr. Beale agent for Mr John Lindsay of Lewisham Kent, holder of an English Land order : that this was reported in my letter of 26th of April No. 42/537 and that his Excellency's approval of the same was intimated to me in your letter of the 11th of May No. 42/241. The subdivision of Section No.5 took place under precisely similar circumstances.

I have the honor to be your most obedient servant
C.J. LaTrobe.

Margin: 6th January 1843 43/155

Thomas Sweeny of Yarra Yarra 110 acres Bourke Nillumbik allotment No.7 of Section No. 5 passed 69 q advert. of a notice of 4th February 1841.

John Lindsay of Lewisham Kent 160 acres Bourke Nillumbik allotment No. 4 of Section No.15 part of Lot 77 advertised in Govt. Gazette of 4 February 1841.

The allotment purchased by Thomas Sweeny containing 110 acres form part of a large portion of 1040 acres advertised in the Government Notice of 4 February 1841 as lot 69.

That purchased by John Lindsay containing 160 acres forms part of a latter portion of 640 acres advertised in the Government Notice of 4 February 1841 as lot 77. The necessary notes have been made in the Description.

T.L.M.*

Surveyor Generals Office

22 February 1843

Entered 43/21 Folio 98 in Volume 3.

Let the Deeds not be February 28.

Transmitted to the Surveyor General for his report, with request that he will have the goodness to give the dates of the advertisements and numbers of the lots of which the two portions of land in question comprised, in order that the same may be introduced in the Deeds.

43/11 6th January 1843 for the

Colonial Secretary.

*Note: This is the explorer, Major Thomas Livingstone Mitchell.

1843 Wednesday 25th January

Port Phillip Gazette. Judicial Intelligence. Supreme Court, (Civil Side) Monday, January 23rd, before his Honor Mr Justice Willis. Sweeny v. Doyle. – Struck out. This may not be Thomas Sweeney.

Friday 27th January

To G.S. Airey Commissioner of Crown Lands.

“Sir, this is to inform you that I am a squatter on the South side of the Yarra distant about seven miles from Melbourne - That there is a Mr. Bellfleur a superintendent for Mr. Walker who is a squatter upon the lands adjoining me - and that he makes a continual practice of driving the cattle under his charge over my land being under crops it is of most serious consequence. It grieves me much to have to make a complaint of this kind, but the law of self protection induces me so to do. I trust therefore that you will take the matter into consideration and aid in the procuring the wanted - restoration of my rights - your kind interference in this behalf will exceedingly oblige - your very humble obedient servant.

Thomas Sweeney”

Note: The superintendent was probably David Balfour who in 1847 was a settler on 'Glass's old station' in the County of Bourke. This is the only name in Port Phillip in the 1840s that is anything like 'Bellfleur'

1843 31st March

Certificate of Title, 'Port Phillip. Land Purchase. A. Whereas in conformity with the Regulations made for the Sale of Crown Lands in that part of Our Territory of New South Wales, Known as the Southern or Port Phillip District Thomas Sweeny of the Yarra Yarra River near Melbourne has become the purchaser of the Land hereinunder described, for the Sum of One Hundred and Ten Pounds Sterling. One Hundred and Ten Acres, be the same more or less, situated in the County of Bourke and Parish of Nillumbik. Allotment number Seven of Portion number Five ... Being a Portion of One Thousand and Forty acres, advertised as Lot 69 in the Government Notice dated 4th February 1841. Register of Purchases, Port Phillip, No: 74, Page 161.

1843 5th April

Port Phillip Gazette, Thomas Sweeney, letters uncollected at Post Office.

24th May

Letter from Thomas Sweeney

"asking to remain in the occupation of certain land under licence until sold."

1843 27th May - Letter 43/3984

Surveyor Generals Office

Sydney 25th May 1843

Sir,

In attention to the request contained in your letter of the 16th instant No. 43/209: I have the honor to return herewith the undermentioned Deeds of Grant in order to their being forwarded for enrolment in the Supreme Court, Port Phillip, under the provisions of the new Registry Act. Deeds dated 31st March 1841. Thos. Sweeny 110 acres Bourke
Jno. Lindsay 160 acres ... do

I have the honor to be Sir

Your most obedt. Servant

T.L. Mitchell

SVG

Deeds for transmission to Port Phillip

Deeds returned/ Deeds transmitted to Mr La Trobe

Government Gazette June 21 1843 p. 97

Deeds of Grant in favour of the undermentioned persons have been received at this office and are ready for delivery upon payment of the usual fees:

Sweeney, Thomas

W. Lonsdale

Sub Treasurer.

1843 31st May Port Phillip Gazette p.1

Thomas Sweeney, freehold Merri Merri Creek, elector, Port Phillip District (The Merri Merri Creek address is clearly a mistake, as the only freehold then held by Thomas Sweeney was on the Yarra River at Nillumbik).

23rd June

Letter from Thomas Sweeney "requesting that an answer be returned to his memorial."

1843 Saturday 24th June

Answer from Crown Lands Commissioner Co. Bourke, Letter Book Sept. 1841-
Dec 1856 VPRS:104 Unit 1: p.38 Letter 43/26

C.C. Office

Melbourne June 24, 1843

To His Honor, C.J. Latrobe

Sir,

In reply to a Memorial forwarded to Yr Honor by Thos. Sweeney, a Sawyer in the South side of the Yarra and referred to me for explanation - I have the honor to state that in consequence of the many complaints I received and the connexion many of the Sawyers living on the S.S. of the Yarra had with the late Bushrangers, Jepps, Fogarty & Ellis, I deemed it expedient to remove them from the locality and to deprive some of them of their License altogether.

But in consequence of the very high character I received of Sweeney, I was induced to make an exception of him. I gave him permission to remain for the year 1842 with the understanding that he only depastured the team of bullocks, in consequence of his run being so circumscribed. Nevertheless in defiance of my instructions he has thought proper to place forty head of cattle on the ground which of necessity encroach on Mr Walker's run and have created many disputes between them and on one occasion, Sweeney and his men rescued his cattle from Mr Walker's stockyard with musket and other weapons thereby endangering the peace of the district.

I have further to observe that Sweeney has lately been in the habit of harbouring various persons on his station under the plea of them being his servants, but I have discovered that they have no connexion whatever with him and I have strong reasons to suspect that they are Sly-grog sellers and Strippers of Bark, all of whom I have removed.

In consequence of these reasons, I have thought it necessary not to renew his License for that place.

I have the Honor to be S- etc.

G.S. Airey

5th July

Acknowledgement of letter of 24th May

"Thomas Sweeney, In reply to your petition of 25th May of the crown commissioner I do not consider that the officer would be justified in renewing your licence. C.J. LaTrobe.

1843 Sunday 31st December

John Francis Sweeney born 'Diamond Creek' (This probably means on the Culla Hill allotment, in the region of the Diamond Creek in Nillumbik).

- 1844 10th February** Port Phillip Government Gazette p.4.
Sweeney, Thomas. Letters await you at Melbourne Post Office.
- 1844** John Francis Sweeney, son of Thomas and Margaret, baptised St. Francis Church, Melbourne. Sponsors Patrick Maher and Catherine Mulloney.
- 1844 8th June** Letter to Thomas Sweeney from C. J. LaTrobe.
'With reference to your Petition to His Excellency praying to be allowed to exchange a portion of land purchased by you in 1842, for other land. I have to inform you that it is not in His power to comply with your request.'
- 1845 Wednesday 24th September**
Thomas Sweeney purchases Occupation Licence at auction at the Survey Office, Melbourne, for Section No. 6, Parish of Nillumbik, containing 810 acres. '*The upset price of each lot is £5 per section of 640 acres.*' (Melbourne Courier, August 8, 1845).
- Tuesday 16th December**
Ellen Elizabeth Sweeney daughter of Thomas and Margaret, born "Yarra".
- 1846 Monday, 19th January**
Ellen Sweeney baptised at St. Francis Church, Melbourne, daughter of Thomas Sweeney and Margaret Meehan, sponsor Mary Meason.
- 1847 Thursday, 22nd July**
Port Phillip Herald, page 3. 'On Tuesday an aged man, named Edward Dunn, summoned his employer, Thomas Sweeney, to show cause why a sum of £1 7s 6d, wages, should not be paid by him. The complainant, it appears, was engaged to act in the capacity of shepherd, upon the station, but it turned out that he was quite incompetent to do his duty. The Bench decided that the amount should be paid; and intimated to the defendant that, if he considered himself aggrieved by the non-performance of Dunn's contract, his remedy was against Mr Stoneham, the registry agent, who engaged him on behalf of Sweeney.' Note: At this stage,
- 1848** Ann (Annie) Maria Sweeney, daughter of Thomas Sweeney and Margaret Meehan, baptised St. Francis Church, Melbourne, (born "Yarra"). Sponsors, James Glennon and his wife Alice Supple (Married St Francis 1842).
- 1849 10th April**
Letter no. 49/750 "To His Honor Charles Joseph LaTrobe Superintendent, Melbourne.
Nillumbeck 10th April 1849
We the undersigned Landholders in the Parish of Nilumbeck beg leave to state to your Honor that all communication between here and Melbourne is partially stopped for want of a Bridge over the Plenty River, and as there has been a considerable quantity of Crown Land lately Sold, and more likely to be sold

shortly. We beg most respectfully that you will cause a sum of money to be placed on the Estimates for the current year and not less than £200 for this purpose.

Signed: Thomas Sweeney, John Thomson,
Thomas Armstrong, Francis Rogerson, James Donaldson, James Johnston.

1849 11th May - Letter from Thomas Sweeney (no. 49/919) to Superintendent.
'Yarra Yarra May 11th 1849

Sir, In conformity with the 30th clause of the regulations of 29th March 1848 relative to the sale by auction of Crown lands within the settled district, I beg leave to request that your Honor will direct that section 6 of Nillumbeck containing 810 acres may be put up to sale at the first opportunity.

The above section was held by me for two years under the regulations of 1841 and I have applied for it at the Survey office in October last according to the new regulations.

The reason I apply to your Honor is that I am very much annoyed by a neighbour who has located himself, without any permission and on a village reserve/ F.E. Fawkner who is continually impounding my cattle off the section claiming an entire right to it. Although I am residing close to it on 110 acres of purchased land.

I have the honor to be your Honours very obedient humble servant

Thomas Sweeney

1849 14th May

To His Honor

Charles Joseph LaTrobe Esq.

Superintendent Lieutenant Governor of the Colony of Victoria &c ...

We, the undersigned holders and occupiers of purchased land adjoining the village reserve of Nillumbeck, most respectfully beg leave to call your attention to the following circumstance. A man of the name of Frederick Edwd. Falkner is at present occupying the village reserve by living on it and having an enclosed paddock on the same and is constantly annoying us belonging to the village reserve and the adjoining Special Country lots by impounding our cattle and according to the 6th clause of the Government Regulations of the 29th March 1848, is not open to Lease and in accordance with the 2nd clause of the same regulations, we are intitled to a commonage right of pasture.

We therefore most respectfully and earnestly request that Your Honor will give instructions that the 42nd clause of the regulations may be put in force against the said F. E. Falkner.

(signed) G. Bransgrove

Thos. Sweeney

James Burnett

Patrick Burke

Charles Edney

John Right

Letter No. 49/932. Referred to Crown Commissioner, James Simpson:

The occupier can have no renewal of licence, even if he holds one now – The village reserve should be held in common by the surruounding landholders.

(signed) C. J. LaTrobe.

22nd May - to Thomas Sweeney

I am directed by His Honor the Superintendent to inform you in answer to your letter of the 11th instant addressed to His Honor that the lease of the section applied for viz No. 6 in the Parish of Nillumbik containing 810 acres will be put up to auction on an early day.

Signed Robert Hoddle" (No. 49/215, Letter Book, Melbourne Survey Office)

20th August - Letter from Thomas Sweeney. Request to be allowed to renew his license within the settled district (No 1493).

1849 28th August - To Thomas Sweeney Melbourne

"I am instructed by his Honor the Superintendent to inform you that by a recent decision of His Excellency the Governor your application for a renewal of your lease for Sec. No.6 of Nillumbik will be entertained. Signed R. Hoddle"
(No.49/352 Page 45, Letter Book, Melbourne Survey Office).

Tuesday 2nd October

Mary Sweeney, daughter of Thomas Sweeney and Bridget Coleman, marries John Wright Murray. "I, Nicholas Joseph Coffey of Melbourne, Minister of St. Francis Church, do hereby certify that John Wright Murray of Diamond Creek and Mary Sweeney of Diamond Creek were joined together in Wedlock by me, on the Second day of October 1849, at St. Francis Church in the presence of John Garden Wright and Margaret Sweeney both of Diamond Creek." Margaret Sweeney (Mary's step-mother) signs "x", as do the bride and groom. John Garden Wright signs his name.

1850 27th May - To Thomas Sweeney

"In reply to your letter of the 20th Instant I have to acquaint you that the lease of the land described by you can only be put up for auction in the event of its not being applied for under the 16 and 22 clauses of the regulations of 29th March 1848. Signed Robert Hoddle.
(No.50/267, Letter Book, Melbourne Survey Office).

1850 Tuesday 4th June

Johanna Marion Sweeney, daughter of Thomas Sweeney and Margaret Meehan, born "Heidelberg" (This probably means within the area covered by the Heidelberg Mission). The name Eltham was first used in 1848, though 'Diamond Creek' could also refer to present day Eltham, rather than today's Diamond Creek which was formerly called Nillumbik..

1850 Sunday 21st July

Johanna Sweeney baptised St Francis Church, Melbourne. Sponsors, James Gooden and Winafred Corcoran.

4th October Letter relating to Eltham Village Reserve following Thomas Sweeney's letter of 11th May 1849.

Falkiner of Nillumbik

In May 1845 I wrote to Mr Falkiner on the complaint made by his neighbours of his impounding stock from this reserve at Eltham and also as to his illegal

occupation of the land. He promised to attend to my wishes and hearing nothing more of the impounding I concluded the matter for complaint had ceased. In the early part of this last month (September) renewed complaints were made of his cultivating the land reserved (Eltham) which I immediately noticed by forwarding on the 17th Sept. notice to Mr..F. that I should be compelled to proceed against him. Mr. F. be it observed is the holder of a lease for adjoining lands and less notice perhaps than was quite justifiable has been taken at his offence as he ad applied to purchase a lot of 300 acres adjoining this township put up at the last sale - he did not, however, become the purchase and I shall now on His Honor's instruction proceed to remove him. I believe Sweeney is the only proprietor of land who has signed this complaint in His Honor.

Signed James Simpson
4th October 1850 Commissioner of Crown Lands

12th October 1850 Letter enclosed with report of James Simpson
James Simpson Esq.
Crown Lands Commissioner

Sir,

Having been informed my Mr Falkner at the Diamond Creek that a man of the name Burke has, in defence of depasturing his cattle on a village reserve, stated to you that he rents my land (between Sweeneys and the said village reserve) I beg to assure you the statement is false. I suppose the error to arise from this man - Burke presuming on an indulgence until I told him to take his cattle away - I have now ordered him to take his cattle off.

Sir Your Obt. Servant (signed H. S. Jones)

1850 Thursday 17th October

Memo Falkiner Eltham

Since my last report I have seen Mr F and have also received a report from my Constables. The enclosure complained of is a brush fence - the land therein enclosed was cultivated a few years since by Mr F. but not more than an acre has been turned up these last two years.

The man Burke (Patrick) is the occupier of 10 a. on lease from Sweeney in no way authorised to occupy any Crown land altho' he has 70 head of cattle, the land he rents does not abut upon the reserve, neither does Sweeney's land. He has presumed upon the indulgence of Jones (H.S. who adjoins the reserve but who now has forbidden him to put his cattle across his land. As Falkiner leases the section adjoining the reserve I see no objection to his running his stock on the reserve till the allotments are marked off. He will remove his stock if it is insisted upon.

Signed J. Simpson Commissioner of Crown Lands.

1850 Joanna Marion Sweeney, daughter of Thomas Sweeney and Margaret Meehan, baptised St. Francis Church, Melbourne. Born 'Heidelberg' could simply mean in the area covered by the Heidelberg Mission.

1850 Tuesday 12th November

Citizens of Melbourne celebrate news that the Separation Act had been passed in London bringing into existence the Colony of Victoria (Officially 1st July

1851). It is likely that the Sweeneys at Culla Hill could have heard the guns and in the evening would have seen the rockets and beacon fires.

1851 Thursday 6th February

'Black Thursday'. A bushfire starts on the Plenty River and sweeps through Diamond Creek, Eltham and Heidelberg. A quarter of the Colony is burnt by the various fires that start on that day.

Monday 30th June

Louis Michel and party discover gold in the bed of Andersons Creek (Warrandyte). This is less than three and a half miles east of Culla Hill.

Friday 4th July

The Melbourne Daily News and Port Phillip Patriot publish the news that gold has been found at Andersons Creek and the great Gold Rush begins.

1851 Tuesday 12th August

To His Excellency Charles Joseph Latrobe, Esquire

The Humble Memorial of the landowners and settlers of the Small Township of Eltham Respectfully sheweth

That your Excellency's Memorialists are all land proprietors in this vicinity by purchase and are of the opinion that we have the right of Commonage on the Town reserve and that we are much annoyed by Mr. Fawkner who resides on the reserve alluded to, and is without any legal occupation thereof. That we are of opinion that Mr Fawkner is an intruder upon our rights as Colonists
Your Excellency's Memorialists beg your Excellency will be pleased to institute an enquiry into this Case and order such redress as to your Excellency may seem meet. Mr Falkner depastures a large number of cattle upon the town reserve although he does not possess one foot of land either by rental or purchase in the Colony of Victoria. That your Excellency's memorialists two years ago preferred a similar complaint against Mr. Falkner upon the same subject which was never taken notice of.

Your Excellency's Memorialists as in duty bound shall pray

Signed: A.B. Jones

Thomas Sweeney

John Wright

Simon Lane

James Rose

John Burke

Simeon Smith

(Referred for report of the Surveyor General - Col. Secy's Office 13 Aug).

14th August, 1851 Memo by Robert Hoddle Survey General 14th August.

A former petition was referred to me under blank cover 30th Sept. 50/1369 and I stated that Mr. Falkiner had no lease of the Reserve; nor had any right to cultivate. I beg now to report that the three sections of Crown land leased to the above party in 1850 under 22nd clause have been given up to Mr. Donnithorne from 1st January last.

- 1852** Victorian Government Gazette - Unclaimed Letters Jan 1852-June 1852.
Thos. Sweeney, Forest Creek (This must be Thomas of Eltham as no other Thomas Sweeney was in Victoria at this time. He could have been delivering produce, had taken to gold digging, or one followed the other).
Mrs. Sweney Mt. Alexander (Possibly Margaret wife of Thomas).

Occupants of Crown Land, 'Sweeny, Thomas, 2 Sections at 10/- pr Section, Evelyn Settled District.' (Reel 65).

1854 Wednesday 1st February

Eltham's first Post Office opens. The Post Master is Frederick Falkiner.

- 1854** Henry Dendy opens a steam operated flour mill in Eltham. Family tradition holds that Thomas Sweeney delivers the first load of wheat to the mill.

1855 Tuesday 1st May

Thomas Hunniford, Merchant, of Little Eltham, becomes Post Master. His store is on the corner of Bridge Street and Maria Street (Main Road).

Monday 24th September

Thomas Sweeney purchases allot. 2, sec. 6, and allot. 3, sec. 6, Parish of Nillumbik, both of 158 acres (The cost, £316, was then a very large sum).

1856 Wednesday 30th April

Licence for first Police Station in Eltham granted.

1856 May

Unclaimed Letters (Country) Thomas Sweeney, Meredith.

1856 September

Unclaimed Letters (Country) Thomas Sweeney, Steiglitz.

- 1856** Legislative Assembly and Council Electoral Rolls, July 1856 - June 1857.

Thomas Sweeney 'Cutto hill'; Yarra, farmer freehold Yarra River. Cutto hill is a misspelling of Culla Hill. In Tipperary it is written, Cullahill or Cullohill.

1856 Monday 17th November

Bridget Carrucan marries John Coleman at the residence of Thomas Sweeney, Culla Hill, Eltham. The location given on the certificate is 'Heidelberg', meaning within the Heidelberg Mission.

1857 Thursday 18th June

Little Eltham School receives official recognition and moves to a private house while the stone schoolhouse is built on the Dalton Street site. David George Clark is Head Teacher. Included in the list of supporters are Thomas Sweeney and his son-in-law, John Murray of North Eltham.

1858 14th July First Trustees for Kangaroo Ground Cemetery appointed: Henry Scarce, Walter Wippell, John Jardine, Andrew Harkness, Thomas Sweeney and Patrick Callaghan.

1859 Tuesday 18th October

Patrick Sweeney marries Mary Fitzsimons at St Monica's Chapel, Heidelberg. The celebrant is the Rev. Fr. John Hoyne and the witnesses are, James McCarthy and Patrick's mother, Margaret Sweeney.

1860 February List of trustees appointed for the management of the Eltham Cemetery Reserve includes, Thomas Sweeney - Victorian Government Gazette page 275.

Friday 9th June

Yarra River floods. The punt at Andersons Creek is washed down as far as Templestowe. This probably means past Culla Hill.

1862 Saturday 4th October

Caroline Sweeney, daughter of Margaret Sweeney aged 20, born at Eltham. The informant on the birth certificate is, 'Margaret Sweeney, Grandmother.'

1863 May

"A cow, in calf, left to graze on the Farmer's Common, Kangaroo Ground, near Eltham, by the owner Thomas Sweeney, was shot about the 6th instant, and a portion sawn off and carried away. The owner offers £5 reward on conviction of the offender."

Victorian Police Gazette 21st May 1863, p.191.

27th August, Ewan Cameron, William Crozier, Thomas Sweeney and Henry Head appointed managers of the United Town and Farmers Common of Eltham and Glengloy. Victorian Government Gazette page 1949.

Inspectors Reports Victorian Schools A-E (Eltham). Sweeney, Joana, age 12 years 11 months, Farmer (father) Reading 3, writing 6, arith 3, gram 4.

1865 6th March

The Governor with the advice of the Executive Council has been pleased to appoint the following as trustees of the land set apart on 5th December 1864 for Roman Catholic Church purposes at Eltham: The Right Rev. J.A. Goold; The Rev. William Finn; Thomas Sweeney, Patrick O'Callaghan, Peter Lawler (Peter Lawler is the police constable at Eltham).

1865 John Francis Sweeney (1843-1909) 'splits' from his father for the first time. He goes to Yering in the Yarra Valley and later writes that he wanted his own identity, having lived and worked with his father up to that time.

1865 Friday 24th November

Thomas Sweeney submits tender to supply firewood to the Eltham Police Station during the year 1866, at nine shillings per ton (Vic. Govt. Gazette).

1867 Monday 8th July

Kate Sweeney marries Timothy Keary at Eltham, priest Father William Finn, witnesses, John Sweeney and Ellen Sweeney.

1867 Monday 15th July

Thomas Sweeney makes his will and leaves two allotments of land to his son John and wife Margaret. One is the original 110 acres purchased in 1842, the other 158 acres (allot. 2 sec. 6). He leaves his son Patrick 158 acres (allot. 3, sec. 6). Daughters Ellen, Annie and Johanna are to be supported and kept out of the first two properties, and if they choose to leave to be paid ten pounds sterling. Witnesses: Peter Lawlor and James Spence. Thomas is suffering from disease of the liver and is attended by Dr. John Black (M.E.C.S.) who makes his last visit on Thursday 5th September.

Tuesday 20th August

Timothy Keary, 'gold miner', departs Melbourne for Hokitika, New Zealand on the ship 'Egmont'. His wife Kate remains at Culla Hill, Eltham, but later migrates to New Zealand.

Saturday 7th September

Thomas Sweeney dies at Eltham Victoria aged 65 years and is buried at Eltham Cemetery on Monday 9th September. Cause of death is disease of the kidneys, which was diagnosed two months earlier. His convict records give 1803 as the year of his birth, and the birthplace as Tipperary. The Sweeney Family plot at Eltham Cemetery is a place of pilgrimage for all descendants. Thankfully it is well preserved.

1868 Thursday 30th April

Margaret Agnes Keary, daughter of Timothy Keary and Kate Agnes Sweeney, born at Culla Hill, Eltham. Dr John Black attends, with Margaret Sweeney as nurse and Eliza Bourke (sister of Tim Keary) assisting.

10th August.

Eltham - The following persons were appointed Trustees of the cemetery at Eltham: - John Sweeney, Rev. Josiah Hollis, John Kilpatrick and Charles Souter.

18th October

In place of Thomas Sweeney deceased, A.W. Smith was appointed trustee for Eltham Cemetery. Public Works Office Melbourne - Victorian Government Gazette.

Tuesday 10th November

John Francis Sweeney marries Ellen Kenney at St John's Church, Heidelberg. The priest is Father William M. Finn and the witnesses are John's older brother Patrick, and his sister Ellen Elizabeth. The brides usual residence is Lilydale. Aged 22, she was born in Kilkenny, Ireland, the daughter of Arthur Kenney and Elizabeth Maher. John is aged 25.

1869 Sunday 22nd August

Annie Maria Sweeney, daughter of Thomas and Margaret, dies at Culla Hill, Eltham, aged 21 years. Buried Eltham Cemetery, Tuesday 24th August.

1872 Monday 19th August

Johanna Marion Sweeney, daughter of Thomas and Margaret, dies at Culla Hill, Eltham, aged 22 years. Buried Eltham Cemetery, Wednesday 21st Aug.

1878 Monday 22nd April

Book 273, No. 521: Mortgage. John Sweeney and Margaret Sweeney, executors of Thomas Sweeney, deceased, to Benjamin Oliver Wallis. 110 acres, allotment 7 portion 5, Parish of Nillumbik. The consideration paid to John Sweeney and his mother is £130.

1878 Monday 14th October

Book 277, No. 146: Conveyance. John Sweeney & Margaret Sweeney to Patrick Sweeney. 158 acres, allotment 3, section 6. Parish of Nillumbik.

1880 Monday 19th April

Ellen Elizabeth Sweeney marries John Francis Ryan at Coromandel, New Zealand.

1881 Thursday 24th February

Book 292 No. 527: Conveyance. John Sweeney & Margaret Sweeney to Robert Hall & Midgley Hall. 158 acres, allotment 2, section 6. Parish of Nillumbik. Note: The price paid was £316, twice the price paid in 1855. In his diary John Sweeney calls this the 'Mount Pleasant estate'. Robert and Midgley Hall arrived from England on the 'Great Britain' in 1863.

Sunday 1st May

Agnes Sweeney aged 8, daughter of John and Ellen, dies at Culla Hill.

Friday 1st July

At 7.00 am John and Ellen Sweeney and their son Arthur aged three months, leave Culla Hill in a spring cart and travel to Melbourne. They arrive home at 10.30 pm, and being a cold night the child has been closely wrapped up in a shawl and carried in his mother's arms. Little Arthur is handed to Caroline Sweeney (daughter of Margaret) to take him inside by the fire to warm him. On removing the shawl she thinks he is asleep, but then realises that something is wrong. She calls her aunt who takes him in her arms and says, 'Oh Caroline he is dead.' Mr W. F. Ford J.P. in a Magisterial Inquiry, reports on the 3rd of July, that Arthur Sweeney has accidentally suffocated while being carried in his mothers arms in a spring cart between Lower Plenty and Eltham, and no blame can be attached to any person. (VPRS 24/P, UNIT 424, FILE 1881/743).

1881 Sunday 3rd July

John Sweeney writes in his diary, 'beried the Baby.' While he has spent Saturday at home, on Monday he is carting sand and water for Mr Gordon.

1884 Wednesday 1st October

Margaret Sweeney (Meehan) dies at Culla Hill, Eltham. Her death certificate states she was born in Ireland and arrived in Sydney c1837. Her father was a blacksmith. Possibly the Daniel Meehan who was witness at her wedding was her brother. Buried Eltham Cemetery, Friday 3rd October 1884.

1885 Monday 24th August

John Sweeney charged at Heidelberg Court for not carrying lights on his vehicle. Fined five shillings with two and sixpence costs. According to his diary he was constantly carrying loads of firewood to Melbourne and this seems to be his main source of income. Some of the wood probably came off the Sweeney land with cutting also done in the Kangaroo Ground area. He also hires himself out to local landholders, along with working his own farm. He grows potatoes and keeps pigs and cattle.

1891 Thursday 8th October

Ellen Sweeney (1874-1940) appointed a teacher on probation at Eltham State School (Teacher Record No. 12657). Ellen Irene Sweeney was known as 'Nelly' or 'Nana' (sounded Narna) to the family. Born on the 27th October 1874, she had been a pupil at the school. She would have progressed to grade eight and perhaps became a voluntary 'assistant'. By the 8th October 1891 was aged 16 years and eleven months.

1900 Thursday 23rd August

Ellen Sweeney appointed Head Teacher, Wombelano State School (2670). In November 1900, Inspector Crow reports: 'Has been in charge not quite 3 months, but I judge her to be a 1st class teacher (88 very good)'. PROVIC, VPRS: 13718, Education Department Record Books. Agatha ('Gatha') Sweeney, Ellen's older sister, joins her at Wombelano as housekeeper and later becomes the Sewing Mistress at the school.

1902 Wednesday 5th March

Ellen Sweeney writes from Wombelano, asking for leave on the 26th and 27th of March, 'to enable me to reach my home, which is situated 15 miles east of Melbourne, by Easter Monday.' 'A coach passes near my school on Wednesdays and Saturdays.' Her request was not granted.

1906 Friday 13th July

Agatha (Gatha) Sweeney appointed Temporary Sewing Mistress at Wombelano. She has previously kept the school house for her sister Ellen.

1907 Thursday 20th June

Agatha Sweeney (5665), appointed Sewing Mistress at Wombelano. Following her full-time appointment from 15th November 1907, Inspector H. Hurley reports: 'She is a very good teacher of sewing & does good work in the infant classes.'

1908 Saturday 28th November

Agatha Sweeney applies for a transfer to Pantton Hill State School due to the serious illness of her father. This would enable her to help nurse her father,

because her mother is also very frail. She does not receive a transfer and stays at Wombelano until the 8th of April 1909.

Wednesday 21st October

Ellen Sweeney receives Commendatory Letter expressing the Director's appreciation of the good work she has done at Wombelano and the success that has attended her zealous and well directed efforts.

Thursday 29th October

Ellen Sweeney appointed Temporary Assistant at Queensbury Street State School, Carlton. This enables her to be closer to her parents. During 1909 she is a Temporary Assistant at Essendon (483), Kensington (2374) and Brunswick South (2743).

1909 Sunday 24th May

John Francis Sweeney dies at Culla Hill. In his will he leaves his property to Annie Foley, Agatha Sweeney, Ellen Sweeney (Executrix), Mary Sweeney, Thomas Sweeney, Frank Sweeney and Kathleen Sweeney. The obituary includes the following: 'Mr Sweeney was born at Eltham and spent almost the whole of his life at his birthplace. His age was 65, and he must have been born when this district was almost in its primal state. He was, we suppose, the longest resident of the neighbourhood. He and his family earned the good-will of all their neighbours, and much sympathy is expressed for the widow and children who have survived him.' The Evelyn Observer.

1909 Tuesday 7th September

Mary Murray, daughter of Thomas Sweeney and Bridget Coleman dies at Eltham North. She is buried at Eltham Cemetery on Thursday the 9th of September.

1910 Tuesday 8th March

Ellen Sweeney (Kenney), wife of John Francis Sweeney dies at Culla Hill.

Wednesday 12th October

Mary Frances Sweeney, daughter of John Francis Sweeney and Ellen Kenny, marries Michael Carrucan at St John's Catholic Church, Heidelberg. The Celebrant is Rev. Fr. Parker. Groomsmen are Michael O'Hare and her brother, Thomas Sweeney. Bridesmaids are her sister Kathleen (Kas) Sweeney and her cousin Ellen (Nellie) Smith (daughter of Annie Sweeney).

1913 Sunday 7th September

Margaret Augustina Sweeney dies at Northcote, Victoria.

1917 Wednesday 12th September

Agatha (Gatha) Sweeney dies at Culla Hill. 'Our sincerest sympathy is tendered to the members of this family, who are well known and highly esteemed in the Eltham District.' The Eltham and Whittlesea Shires Advertiser and Diamond Creek Advocate.

1919 Thursday 17th June

Patrick Sweeney (born 1838) dies at Rae Street, North Fitzroy, Victoria.
1921 Thursday 1st September
Kate Keary (Sweeney) dies New Lynne, Auckland, New Zealand.

1932 Thursday 15th September
Ellen Ryan (Sweeney) dies in Waihi, Coromandel, New Zealand.

Thomas Sweeney (Sweeny) Timeline - Copyright © Peter Cuffley 2006.

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