NINNES

**Taken from the Diary (Notebook) of Thomas Ninnes native of Towednack in Cornwall**

**PAGE 71** **RECORD OF OUR DOINS AT THE BURRA** TN 71

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

**1852 Feb 3** We left the Burra for the Victoria diggens. Brother Joseph and myself bought 2 horses and dray. Brother Joseph wife and Wm ROACH in our dray, John THOMAS, sister Mary [THOMAS, wife of John] and family in Hasset bullock dray, self, wife and three children in John THOMAS 2nd bullock dray We locked up our furnituere up in one house and let two. We went on to Kapunda, Angastown, Colingrove Mr Angas Station fine land all about Angas' Station near Angaston We saw a woman carrying one end of the yoak a pretty bullock walking in the furrow drawing plow after them A man we suposed the husband holding the handles of the plow It was free sandy soile The bullock was fastened to the yoak but the woman had a long slender end just resting on her shoulder. She did not appear burdened We gote to the Ready [Reedy] Creek Mine and on the sandy bank of the Murray River A most peaceful road Reached the Willington on a hot thirsty day and sum took a little too much Porter at the Publick House We crossed the Murray on the Punt two drays at a time There is a strong cable roape fastened at each side of the river at the landing places, drawn tight across the river It runs over rowlers on the bulwarks of the punt The men puls at this rope The stronger you pull the faster the punt goos A fine sheet of soft water You could see that it was running towards the sea by anything on the surface of the water About one fourth of a mile wide ? should the Porters caused sum rash words between relatives I should have said that Thomas THOMAS of Skilly, [Wilhelm] BRUCE [BRUSE] from the Burra, John ROACH and others was in company We reached the Policemans Wells MacGraths Flat the Corong A good many blacks They gote us plenty of nice fish for flour, sugar and tea.

**PAGE 72** **RECORD OF THE ROUT TO THE DIGGENS** TN 72

We went through the desert a scruby sandy poore country Salt Creek where Malady MARTIN murdered Maria MANAMAN an old servant for her money & buried her in a wombat hole Hall he was hanged We reached Maria Creek where the blacks murdered & ate the crew of a wrecked ship in the early days Reached Tilleys Flats Our cat we took with from the Burra we lost here possibly kild by the wild dogs or something At the hind part of the dray we had a coope of fowls Feed and watered them in a trough outside of the bars of the coope We got on to BAKERS Jackie WITEs, Mackingtosh Mount Arples I had rather a sharp attack of disentry here We had passed the Border One Publick House Very few settlers anywhere about Crossed the Wimmera at Salter WALDENs Station Reached Horsham One Publick House smithy store and 3 or 4 stone huts Now is very large I think Miss Rohan told me there is 10 Publick Houses in Horsham We passed the 4 post Publick House on the south end of the Wimmera Plain Reached Daisy Hill , Messers HALL and Mr NEILs Station.

**1852 Mar 30th**

At night my wife was confine in Jane She never had a better time Child born all right in little time Sister Mary THOMAS present We had a splendid tent on our dray of close tick All our bedding in fact it was as comfortable as a bedroome The following night Maria in her sleep being covered rather close put out her armes turned back the clothes and gote cold about the arms brest and neck She awoke me about 3 o'clock She said she was cold I got her something not at once She improved but never gote right as before She had an attack of disentry We was now about 10 miles from Busembank 6 miles from the Pirenees and 25 miles from Mt Alexander We stoped a week

**13 April**

We pitched our tents on Bullock Creek about 8 miles from the Long Gully We pitched to work in the Long Gully John THOMAS and John [NINNES] Wm Henry [THOMAS] full share James 2/3 of share brother Joseph and self We had two good holes in Long Gully

**PAGE 73** **RECORD OF REACHING THE DIGGENS** TN 73

**1852** Monday the 11th May

We moved our tents from the Bullock Creek to the head of the Moinses? Flat and creek It came onto fearfull heavy rain Maria gote whet She soon gote worse and palpitations of the harte came on

**1852** Monday 18th May

I fetched Dr Smitch a German Dr from Burra he attended her for inflammation of the lungs I paid him for 5 visits £10.0.0 No better

**29 May**

Fetched Dr Oakley He attended her to 29 June. Paid 7 visits £7.0.0 Medison £5.0.0

**29 June**

I got Dr Moile a nipphew of our old family Doctor of Penzance to see her Dr Moile declared her case incurable He said there was water in the chamber of the harte & common dropsy There was no hope what ever of her recovery Paid him £1.0.0

**5 July**

Maria wished to see Dr Smitch She was in a sad state Could not live nor die No sleep Being a Sunday morning I hunted him up Gote to our tent in the afternoon I went with him for medison Got back about 8 o'clock at night Commenced giving the medison It had a fearful efect on her she became delerious with deathlike appearance in her face We stoped giving the medison She becam conscious The next day she said she would soon be gone She gave up everythin for at that moment praying to the Lord She died at 3.30 same day 7 of July Doctoring and medical comforts cost a little over £30.0.0. She lived 3 months and 7 days after her confinement

**29 May 1852**

Little girl died at 9 o'clock at night from direah Little Jane died at 12 o'clock same night for want of brest nursing We took sum boards from the Burra with us which turned to make cofins. I made a nice cofin for the 2 children My wife requested me to make a cofin for her also.. It was a severe trial to me but I managed to make it Bound it with white cloth It appeared very nice John THOMAS and sons dug the graves Nicholas TRAHAIR read the burial service So ends the history of a good clean carefull affectionate wife Myself with Mary and Martha was left to mourn our loss

**PAGE 74** RECORD OF THE DIGGENS TN 74

**1852**

In April we pitched to work in the Long Gully we had two good holes sunk and work out by brother Joseph & my self Jsames Thomas carted the wash dust to Bullock Creek to wash 8 miles No water on the diggens We washed 63 ozs of gold from the two holes John Thomas was laid up for some time not able to do any work John & Wm Henry did not git any gold When we settled or divided brother Joseph would not count for John Thomas to have his share as he had not done any work John & Wm Henry full shares John Thomas was very much put out about it Joseph declared he did not come to the diggens to git gold for John Thomas & family He had more than the two of us and had done little for it Paid John Thomas 3ozs of gold for the use of his dray to go from the Burra to the diggens We had pretty good holes at the Pegleg Gulley Joseph went home in the spring I continued working with John Thomas & boys until he [Joseph] returned He and myself joined and worked at Pegleg

**1853**

Say January we purchased Magors & Trathens in the 7 White Hill for 6ozs of gold Self Joseph Paul Roach & Henry Pollard one afternoone we had left & came up & standing on the bank f our shaft I saw a man going down the Bendigo Roade I said to Joeseph that looks like brother William We coed he came up the hill to us it proved to be him He was overjoyed and we was glad to see him William joined with John Thomas They went to MacIver.. We worked out our ground pretty well & went down to MacIver We did

not make much there William gote very little with John Thomas He returned to the Bendigo with us Joseph, Paul Roach & H Pollard left for home William pitched with me We worked on in the 7 White Hill until November We gote a good bit of gold and built a stone wall round the graves of my wife and 2 children and cut the names in a large tree at the head of the graves The walle is all right but the tree is cut down and Mr Roas have the land care is taken of the spot

**PAGE 75** **RECORD OF AT THE DIGGENS** TN 75

**1852 & 1853**

Was two very whet winters We left the diggens Self brother William Mary & Martha in November 1853 with Bill Betts an old Burra watchman we arrived at Colinwood Stayed at Mrs Walliss's Brother William went to Ballarat with a Mr Walker a ginger beer and cogal manufacturer ang joined him and made a good buisness I went to Adelaide to dispose of my few cattle horses and gold which was sent to Adelaide by the Government Escort Sold ozs gold £862 Sold on sundry times at the diggens gold for £216.6.10 Gote at the Burra Mine in three years & 9 months (from May 1849, 1850, 1851) £277.4.11

Left the Burra Mine at the end of Jany 1852 for Victorian gold diggens Returned to Burra to sell my things & the Burra December 1853 About one year & 9 months on the diggens I purchased Section 107 hundred of Clare from Walter Treleaven with the improvements for £600 I also bought two teems of bullocks ewes/calves hiffers pigs corn hay & & for £500 sum odd pounds Returned to Melbourne in the end of December 1853 Married Mrs Wallis on 1st Jany 1854

**1854**

Returned to Adelaide in January 1854 with Mrs Wallis my wife and her two sons John & Thomas and my two daughters Mary & Martha We stoped at the Temperance House Morcoms Hindley Street

Feby went to Clare Took possession of the property fetched the family to Meadows Farm Soon after the Spring Farm Chapel was in the course of building Chapman Bray Dunstone Moyses John & Thomas was setled down in the locality which induced me to settle down in this locality