

Toomey Family Reunion Newsletter

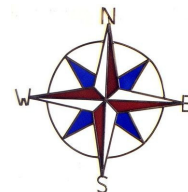
Published to inform family members of the reunion details

Number 7

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The Reunion is Upon Us

The Toomey Family reunion is now just days away and this will be the final email before the reunion.



By the time you read this many of us will be on the road heading in the direction of Gatton from all points of the compass. Whilst the timetable was published in the last newsletter, the main times to remember are: 9:00am – Arrival, Sports Centre opens; 10:00am – Morning Tea; 10:45am – announcements and speeches; 12:00pm – Lunch; 4:00pm – Finish.

Remember that whilst the Gatton Lions Club is catering for the reunion, you should bring along your own water, soft drinks, picnic utensils, cups, cutlery, condiments, etc. Also, don't forget to please bring along any family photographs, medals, certificates (especially original marriage certificates) or mementos you would like to share. A computer and scanner will be available to make copies of your precious items for posterity.

If you missed any of the Newsletters, they will be left on the Toomey Reunion website - <http://www.ezitree.com.au/reunions/toomey.htm> for some time. An order form for the Toomey Reunion CD will also be placed on the website in case you miss ordering one on the day. You will need to post the order form to the address shown, together with the cost of \$5.00.

Please advise if you would like the Toomey newsletters to continue in the future. Future editions of the newsletters will require submission of articles, family stories, anecdotes, etc, if they are to be continued.

Another Toomey Wedding Photograph

A big thank you goes out to both Carmel Stewart and Coral Toomey for providing copies of this portrait of William (Bill) Toomey and Mary Ann Black taken at their wedding in Gatton on Wednesday 3rd June 1931.



Who was Jeremiah Toomey?

Jeremiah Toomey was the Irishman who started our family in Australia. He was born in County Cork just after the 'troubles' of 1798. His parents are recorded as being Mortimer Toomey and Margaret Lancey however no record of them has ever been found.

Although unusual for this time in Ireland, he must have had some education because he could both read and write. Charged with 'coining' (which is the crime of counterfeiting currency) at the Cork City Criminal Court, he was found guilty and sentenced on Monday 19th April 1824 to be transported to New South Wales for seven years. He arrived in New South Wales on the ship *Ann and Amelia*, on Sunday 2nd January 1825.

Jeremiah was immediately assigned to Dr. Robert Townson, one of the large landowners in Airds, is located south west of Sydney (about 60 kilometres) and near Campbelltown. He remained there until Wednesday 10th June 1829 when he received a Ticket of Leave. At the time he was described as 5 feet 7¾ inches high, ruddy complexion, red hair and grey eyes.

This gave Jeremiah freedom to work for himself and a chance to re-build his life. He married Sarah Melvin at St. Phillips Church, Sydney, on Monday 22nd July 1833. Sarah had arrived in New South Wales on the ship *Red Rover* which had arrived in Sydney on Friday, 10th August 1832 carrying 202 free female settlers from Ireland between the ages of 16 and 24.

There were only two known children to this marriage, James Henry, born around 1835 at Windsor and John, born around 1838 at Wollombi. There is no record of the death of Sarah Melvin, but she probably died around 1840 shortly after the birth of John Toomey. This would have left Jeremiah with two young boys, James aged 5 years and John aged 2 years. No words can describe how Jeremiah must have felt following the loss of his wife and then being left with two young children to raise, feed and educate.

Eventually, Jeremiah ended up on 'Grubbin Station', a property in southern New South Wales near Henty, where he spent the remainder of his life as a farmer. His eldest son James even married Sarah, the daughter of the property owner Robert Morton.

Jeremiah died on Friday 5th February 1875 at Grubbin Station where he was buried two days later. Whilst he left no will, he had accumulated some wealth which amounted to some £400, a not inconsiderable sum for those days.

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