



Toll House [State Library of South Australia B45585]

From Servitude to Struggle in a New World

John Walker, the last tollkeeper of the Glen Osmond tollgate arrived at Port Adelaide in February 1840 aboard the *India* from Scotland with his adult children Helen, Thomas, James and Margaret.

The family lived in Rundle Street in 1841 but some time before the end of that year Margaret went to Western Australia. In Albany, she married John Craigie in 1842. The following year their first child, Mary, was born in the Albany Hotel, York Street where Craigie had obtained a publican's license.

Craigie had arrived in Perth in 1831, purchasing a plot in St. Georges Terrace, and in 1834 arrived in Albany. He worked in various rural positions and a whaling enterprise. At the end of December 1846 he left for South Australia, with barrels of whale oil in the hold of the *Joseph Albino*.

Margaret returned after the birth of their third child in March 1847 to Adelaide where their children Mary, Jane and John were baptised in April 1847. Meantime her father, John Walker had purchased a lease at the River Murray where he installed Craigie as the overseer of this property later that year.

Living in a settlers hut, the family grew with the arrival of James and Margaret, by which time Craigie had purchased the lease of the Haywood Arms Hotel at Moorundie. This enterprise failed, and after becoming bankrupt he returned to being an overseer and earned just enough to repay a debt owing to his father-in-law.

John Craigie decided in 1852 to go to the Victorian Goldfields but died on Christmas Day 1852 at Mt. Korong, close to Wedderburn in Victoria.

Margaret continued to work the lease with the help of her two young sons but unfortunately she died of fever on 9 April 1856. She was buried up the hill from the hut, which is now part of an interpretive walking trail in the Katarapko National Park near Berri. The creek and hut were earlier named Cragg's a corruption of the name Craigie.

In July 1856, her lease was acquired by a John/James Chambers and it is probable that the boys aged 7 and 9 remained on the land working for Chambers. The three girls went to live with their Aunt Helen Cameron at Peachey Belt. A plaque at Katarapko was dedicated on 9 April 2006 at a family reunion.



Margaret
CRAIGIE [1821-1856]
[Née WALKER]

Married John CRAIGIE
on 25 August 1842
in Albany, WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Departed 5 October 1839 from Greenock
Arrived 23 February 1840 at Pt Adelaide on the

India

Children of Margaret & John:

Mary (1843-1865)

Jane (1845-1886) m John RUSSELL

John (1847-1892)

James (1849-1912)

Margaret (1851-1896) m Charles PATTERSON

From information provided by Dymphia Bailey
Margaret's great-great granddaughter
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