

# THE SULLIVAN FAMILY

## PATRICK SULLIVAN

Patrick Sullivan was born in 1808 in the townland of Lisdeen, situated about two miles from Kilkee on the Kilrush to Kilkee Road in County Clare, Ireland. His parents were James Sullivan and Mary Kennedy. It is thought that Patrick was probably the eldest son. He had one brother, John, who died in 1827 aged 16, and four younger siblings. His father was a small farmer who died sometime before 1834.

Patrick's father James Sullivan, and Partners, were listed in the Tithe Applotment Books of 1828 as holding (leasing) two acres of first quality land in Lisdeen. Nearby, John Sullivan also leased land – both first and second quality, totalling over two acres. It appears that James and John Sullivan split their father's land upon his death - just over four acres, creating yet smaller holdings and further diminishing the amount of land available to support these poor families. The Sullivans would have been tenant farmers paying rent to Protestant landlords, some of whom were absentee owners. Potatoes were the main crop grown and turf cutting was another form of employment which helped support the families and was used to provide fuel for the winter months. Men, women and children took part in turf cutting.



***Cattle Fair Day at Kilkee, County Clare, Ireland.***

*Image courtesy County Clare Library*

The Sullivans had relatives named McInerney living in the Lisdeen area although it is not known whether they were connected to the Sullivan or Kennedy side of the family. Land records around 1827-1828 show a number of Sullivans, McInerneys and Kennedys living on rateable land in townlands in the Kilfeearagh Parish.

Patrick could read and write, so it seems that he must have attended one of the hedge schools that operated in the parish of Kilfeearagh. The school in Lisdeen was built of mud walls and thatch according to an Irish Education Inquiry of 1824. The Master was named John Crowe and earned 10/- (ten shillings) per year. There were 21 boys and 11 girls attending the school at that time.

On 17 March 1830, Patrick Sullivan was arrested along with four other men for the manslaughter of Michael Fitzgerald. Patrick was 22 years old at the time. He was not brought to trial until 1834 and during the intervening period he was held in the Ennis Gaol. The gaol contained 73 sleeping cells and was located in Jail Street (now O'Connell Street) Ennis. The reason for the delay between arrest and trial was due to an outbreak of cholera in Ennis and to the agrarian unrest which was rife in that part of the country at the time.



***O'Connell Street, Ennis, County Clare, Ireland.***

*(Image courtesy County Clare Library).*

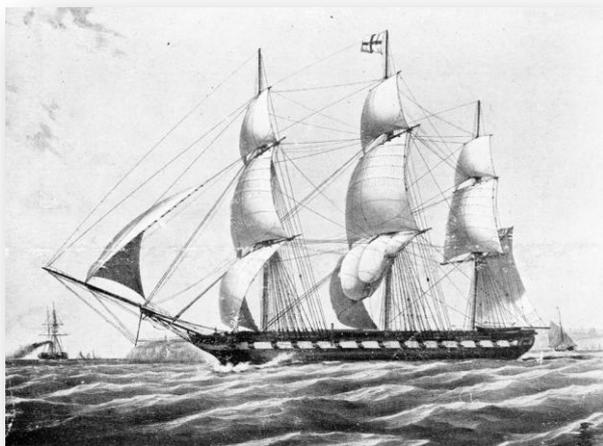
Newspapers at the time reported horrific crimes, mostly against local landholders and land agents – murders, assaults, interference with livestock and raids on houses were amongst the offences being perpetrated. These crimes were the result of the misery and distress suffered by the peasants following years of starvation and unemployment. For a decade or more prior to Patrick's arrest, severe famines had left the population in dire circumstances resulting in three quarters of the people in need of aid. Secret societies such as the 'Terry Alts' formed to rise up against the landowners, many of whom were absentee landlords. Emergency legislation was enacted to deal with the problem and the courts dealt with hundreds of cases during this period. Two companies of soldiers were marched into Ennis from Limerick to control the unrest.

Patrick Sullivan was eventually brought to trial and the *Clare Journal and Ennis Advertiser* of 3 March 1834 reported that he appeared before Baron Foster, between 28 February and 1 March 1834 and was convicted of the manslaughter of Michael Fitzgerald on the night of 17 March 1830. Witnesses to the manslaughter were recorded as residing around the Lisdeen area, one, Pat O'Dea resided in Ballyonan and another witness, Patt FitzPatrick was employed on the Lisdeen property of James O'Gorman McMahon Esq.

No details are available to explain the incident that resulted in the manslaughter. Tony Sullivan, a descendant of Patrick Sullivan, suggests that perhaps it was the result of a drunken fight. It is known that the manslaughter occurred on St Patrick's Day in the small coastal town of Kilkee, two miles from Lisdeen, and that five men were charged with the offence. It is possible that the lifting of Lenten restrictions on eating and drinking alcohol for the St Patrick's Day celebrations could have resulted in an argument or brawl getting out of hand. Whatever the reason, the outcome was catastrophic for both Michael Fitzgerald and Patrick Sullivan.

Patrick was sentenced to seven years transportation to Australia. While awaiting transportation he was imprisoned on the hulk *Surprise* in Cork Harbour. During this period, several members of Patrick's mother's family petitioned Lord Archibald Kennedy, the Lord Ailsa and Earl of Cassilis in Scotland, pleading for mitigation of his sentence. The petitioners were John, Batt (Junior), Batt (Senior), Patt, Michael and James Kennedy. They referred to Patt Sullivan as a cousin and son of Mary Kennedy. The petition testified as to Patrick's good character, stating that he had never been involved in the social unrest of the time, that his father was dead and his mother had four young children to support. It also stated that the witnesses who would have given evidence in support of Patrick, namely Patt O'Dea and Patt FitzPatrick, had both succumbed to illness (probably cholera) and died before being able to testify. Lord Ailsa passed the petition on to an unknown person suggesting some leniency and that Patrick should be excused the four years that he had already served, however, the petition was denied and he was removed from the *Surprise* to board the convict ship *Blenheim* for transportation to New South Wales.

The other four men who were arrested for the offence were acquitted.



***The "Blenheim"***

(Image courtesy Pictures Collection State Library of Victoria).

The *Blenheim* left Cork Harbour on 24 July 1834 with 200 convicts on board and arrived in Sydney on 14 November 1834. The Ship's Surgeon, James Wilson, reported that only one of the 289 persons on board was sick, and that was an old seaman suffering from chronic rheumatism. Patrick Sullivan was not mentioned in the Surgeon's sickness reports, so it appears that he arrived in good condition after the three and a half month voyage.

Patrick Sullivan's registration details from the ship's transcripts show -

Age: 26 years  
Religion: RC  
Marriage Status: Single  
Location: County Clare  
Occupation: Farm servant  
Education: R&W  
Crime: Manslaughter  
Tried at: County Clare on 25 Feb 1834  
Sentence: 7 Years  
Former Convictions: None  
Height: 5'8"  
Complexion: Ruddy and freckled  
Hair: Dark brown  
Eyes: Grey to blue  
Small mole right whisker, nose a little cocked, three blue dots on back of left hand, scar left shin.  
Uncle Michael McHenry [McInerney] 10 years in the colony.

The 1837 Convict Muster showed that Patrick Sullivan was assigned to Thomas Small at Parramatta, New South Wales. It is not known whether this was Patrick's first assignment. It appears that Thomas Small had land holdings between Kissing Point and Parramatta and had a wharf on the Parramatta River at Kissing Point.



***A sketch of a shepherd's hut gives some idea of the type of abode that Patrick Sullivan would have had as an assigned servant on Charles Boydell's property.***

***German's Hut, Lewinsbrook  
– From sketches by William Leigh.***

*(Image courtesy of State Library of NSW).*

Patrick was later assigned to Charles Boydell at his property *Camyr Allyn* near Gresford, New South Wales. An analysis of 150 convicts assigned to five estates on the Paterson and Allyn Valleys gave some idea of the people Patrick Sullivan mixed with when he was assigned to Charles Boydell's property. The typical convict sent to the area was protestant, single, aged between 15 and 30 years, had been sentenced to between seven and 14 years and had some education. Catholics made up less than 14%, those under 15 years of age - 3% and over 30 years of age – less than 7%, the totally illiterate - 12%, those with a life sentence - 33%, and those married - around 10%.

Boydell received his first land grant in 1826 and later purchased more Government blocks on the Allyn River. Boydell raised cattle and sheep on his property, but was also involved in growing wheat and corn and became well known for his pioneering work in the cultivation and manufacture of tobacco. Boydell also established vineyards after James Webber gave him a

parcel of his best vine cuttings. Boydell's responsibilities to his assigned servants included supplying food and basic necessities. A 1926 account from Boydell's property showed the cost of keeping a convict for a year was £17.12.0. This was made up of 13 bushels of wheat at 6s. per bushel = £3.18.0, 365 lbs of beef at 4d. per lb = £6.1.8, or 208 lbs of pork at 8d. = £6.13.8. Clothing was a 'frock and trowsers' provided twice a year at £1.10.0; two cotton shirts – 12s.; two pairs of shoes – 16s.; as well as 52 lbs of sugar at 4d. per lb = 17s.; 6 ½ lbs of tea at 3s. per lb = £1.1.0; and incidentals such as tobacco and soap at £2.10.0.



**Tobacco drying. Charles Boydell introduced tobacco cultivation on his "Camyr Allyn" estate where Patrick Sullivan was assigned.**

(Image by Charles Kerry and Co reproduced in 'A Nation in the Making', Alasdair McGregor, Australian Geographic).

TICKET OF LEAVE.	
No.	39/259 18 <sup>th</sup> Feb <sup>y</sup> 1839
Prisoner's No. ....	
Name .....	Patrick Sullivan
Ship .....	Blenheim
Master .....	
Year .....	1834
Native Place .....	
Trade or Calling .....	
Offence .....	
Place of Trial .....	Clare
Date of Trial .....	25 <sup>th</sup> Feb <sup>y</sup> 1834
Sentence .....	7 years
Year of Birth .....	
Height .....	
Complexion .....	
Hair .....	
Eyes .....	
General Remarks .....	
Allowed to remain in the District of	Paterson
On recommendation of	Paterson
Dated	October 1839.

Boydell was appointed a magistrate in 1834 and was a member of the Stock Protection Association. Local magistrates were required to act with the limitation that they could not sentence their own convicts. It appears that Boydell was a strict master as he was known to have criticised a law that would limit punishments to assigned servants, while some Masters were criticised for being too easy on their convicts. Masters could recommend tickets of leave which were an inducement to good behaviour and it would seem that Patrick Sullivan's behaviour was exemplary as he was issued with a Ticket of Leave on 18 February 1839.

Tickets of Leave were granted to convicts who were considered to be sober, honest and industrious and the petition to obtain a Ticket of Leave had to be endorsed by the local magistrate. The ticket allowed

convicts to work for themselves on condition that they remained in a specified area and reported regularly to local authorities. If at all possible they were also required to attend divine worship every Sunday. The Ticket of Leave had to be carried at all times. In Patrick's case, his ticket allowed him to remain in the Paterson District.

**CERTIFICATE OF FREEDOM.**

No. *102/1529*  
 Date, 1 September 1842

Prisoner's No ..... *34/2212*  
 Name ..... *Patrick Sullivan*  
 Ship ..... *Blenheim*  
 Master ..... *Bacon*  
 Year ..... *1834*  
 Native Place ..... *County Clare*  
 Trade or Calling... *Labourer*  
 Offence .....

*Palmer* Place of Trial ..... *Clare*  
 Date of Trial ..... *25 February 1834*  
 Sentence ..... *Seven yrs*  
 Year of Birth ..... *1808*  
 Height ..... *5 feet 8 inches*  
 Complexion ..... *Ruddy freckled*  
 Hair... .. *dark brown*  
 Eyes ..... *gray to blue*  
 General Remarks... *Small mole right shoulder*  
*Not a little cocked Some blue dots*  
*back of left hand Year left thumb*  
*Alld a 4/1842*  
*No. 102/1529 dated 18 Feb 1839.*

It is not known whether Patrick continued to work for Charles Boydell or went out to work on his own behalf, but he was granted a Certificate of Freedom on 1 September 1842 at Paterson, so he was certainly still in the same area. The Certificate of Freedom was a document stating that a convict's sentence had been served and was only available to a convict with a finite sentence, in Patrick's case – seven years. Patrick would have been 34 years old.

Sometime between February 1842 and April 1843, Patrick met Margaret Ward. One wonders where these two would have met and images that spring to mind are of social gatherings of Irish immigrants or a congregation at Sunday Mass. Margaret Ward arrived in Australia in February 1842 and was employed by Mr James

Skinner of Morpeth and taken to his property *Melville* near present day Anambah (not far from Maitland). Perhaps Patrick and Margaret met at the East Maitland Catholic Church where they later married or possibly at the Summer Hill Church near Vacy which was built in 1840. Of course, religious services were often held in many a rough building before churches were built and it was only when populations became more established that substantial buildings were erected.

Patrick and Margaret's marriage ceremony took place at St Joseph's Catholic Church, East Maitland on 24 April 1843. The witnesses to the marriage were William and Mary Flynn. Patrick's address was given as Allyn River, so it is possible that he was still working on the Boydell property at the time. Margaret's address was given as Morpeth, so she was most likely still employed by James Skinner. (See Margaret Ward's story further on in this section).

Where did Patrick and Margaret set up house? Perhaps they lived in a shepherd's or worker's hut on the *Camyr Allyn* Estate. No information is available about this, so one can only speculate. The early months of 1843 were a worrying time for the settlers of the area owing to severe drought

and depression. To make matters worse, two natives had been terrorising the area for some time, murdering a baby and a nine year old boy at Glendon and also murdering an Aboriginal boy on Boydell's property on the Allyn River. Fortunately, the offenders were captured the month before Patrick and Margaret were married, no doubt to their great relief.

As well as drought conditions, the 1840s saw the withdrawal of convict labour and artificially high land prices which drove many of the large landowners to bankruptcy. Many of the large estates were subdivided and sold, but it was also a common practice to tenant the large estates and many small settlements grew up around the early estates as a result. Around the same time, bounty schemes encouraged large landowners to import labour for their estates to replace the previous convict labour.

It seems fairly certain that Patrick and Margaret were still in the same area when their first child, Mary, was born on 4 February 1844. Her baptism record shows that she was baptised in the Parish of West Maitland and her parents abode was shown as Paterson, usually meaning the district of Paterson, not the town. Later documents show her birth place as Gresford and it is known that the settlements of Gresford and East Gresford were formed on Boydell's Estate. (See Mary Sullivan's story further on in this section).

The priest who baptised Mary was Father John Thomas Lynch and it seems that he baptised a large number of Catholic babies in the 24 years that he spent in the Maitland area. Father Lynch (later Dean Lynch) was born in Dublin and educated in Maynooth. He came to Australia in 1838. Apparently he was a good horseman and his rounds often meant a journey of over a thousand miles a year. His registrations show baptisms of 4,100 persons – a rate of 170 a year. Every two months he spent two or three days in the Paterson Valley, ministering to the scattered Catholic settlers. He was said to have shared the 'shepherd's hut' and was a tough, tireless worker and organiser and also, that he thoroughly searched the Hunter and Paterson Valleys and there was not a settler, Catholic or non-Catholic, upon whom he did not call. Dean Lynch also promoted the Temperance Movement, although was said to have "turned a blind eye on St Patrick's Day, or even gave permission to those old hands who sought his permission ... just to wet the Shamrock!" Dean Lynch died in February 1884.

Between February 1844 and June 1856, Margaret Sullivan gave birth to ten children, including one set of twins -

Mary	4 February 1844
Annie (Honorah)	17 March 1845
Owen	18 November 1846
Luke	1 March 1848
Patrick	1 March 1848
Bridget	17 February 1850
Ellen	14 July 1851
James	9 May 1853
Michael	24 November 1854
Margaret	5 June 1856

It appears that during the period that Patrick and Margaret's children were born they remained residents of the Gresford district. Two newspaper items in the *Maitland Mercury* in 1849 give Patrick's address as Gresford. The first item in May 1849 shows that Patrick purchased a bullock from James McCormick. This would certainly suggest that Patrick was operating a farm of his own

at the time, probably as a tenant farmer, leasing a small portion of land on one of the large estates. Later that same year, Patrick advertised to find out the whereabouts of his Uncle, Michael McInerney and his address was again shown as Gresford. This relative was listed on Patrick's arrival documents as having been in the colony for ten years. It is not known whether Patrick was ever able to contact his Uncle. The 1850s saw the gold rushes reduce the number of tenant farmers, however, it appears that Patrick stayed in the area.

The New South Wales Electoral Rolls from 1859 are the main indicators of Patrick Sullivan's whereabouts from that time and 1859 shows Patrick as a leaseholder in *Lewinsbrook*, although his last child's birth certificate shows that she was born at *Lewinsbrook* in June 1856 so it is possible that Patrick had obtained the leasehold earlier than 1859. *Lewinsbrook* was the name given to a 2,560 acre grant taken up by Alexander Park located on the left bank of the Allyn River, whereas Charles Boydell's grant of 640 acres (originally named *Rossett* and later *Camyr Allyn*) was on the right bank opposite *Lewinsbrook*.



***Paterson River from the Carrabolla Road.*** (Photo taken 2013).

The next entry of Patrick's name was in the 1869-1870 Electoral Roll where he is shown as having freehold property at Carrabolla. Carrabolla is situated at the foot of Mount Royal in the Upper Paterson, a very isolated and beautiful part of the country. It is not known exactly where Patrick's freehold was situated, but a notice in the *Maitland Mercury* on 7 July 1877, about a Crown Land reserved road from Lostock up the Paterson River to Portion 17, Parish of Colonna, shows Patrick Sullivan's name amongst other landowners as being affected by the road. Also listed in the Electoral Roll for this period were Owen and Luke Sullivan in residence at *Lewinsbrook*. It is worth reiterating that the 1858 Electoral Act made residency the sole qualifying criteria for voting. The vote was extended to all males aged 21 and over who were resident natural born or naturalised British subjects. However, the six months residency requirement remained, which disenfranchised many people in itinerant occupations. The property qualifications remained for non resident voters, allowing plural voting for those who held property for several seats.



***A farmer using a hand held wooden plough.***

farmers in the area from Gresford to Carrabolla. The country was very hilly and had a fair supply of water from the Paterson and Allyn Rivers. Most farms had a few cows, some pigs and poultry and horses for farm work and transport. Cultivation of crops would have taken place mainly along the banks of the river. Wooden ploughs, often handmade, were used to turn the soil - some were pulled by a horse, although often only manpower was used. Potatoes, pumpkins and onions were staple crops. Maize was a common crop mainly used as fodder, and tobacco was also grown by small farmers – this was a cash crop, and often used to tide over the family in difficult times until the Excise Duty changed that. Another cash crop was the sale of oranges. Citrus orchards were planted throughout the Paterson Valley and many remnant orchards can be seen to this day. Produce was taken to the Paterson wharf and shipped to Morpeth and thence to coastal steamers for transport to major ports. Cases of oranges, sacks of maize, boxes of cornflour and later, as the dairy industry developed in the area and many farmers established good dairy herds, casks of butter and cream were also transported. Creameries and cheese factories were established on the large estates and a butter factory was established at Gresford.

Patrick Sullivan was a farmer. His convict indents show him as a farm servant, which was presumably his occupation in Ireland. From the time of his arrival in Australia it appears that his main occupation was assisting on farming properties, firstly with Thomas Small and then Charles Boydell. While it is not known what type of farming Patrick was engaged in from the time he became a free man, it can fairly safely be assumed that he undertook the general agricultural pursuits of most of the small



***Carrabolla Road - An old orange tree left over from the days when citrus orchards were common in the Paterson River area. The fruit tasted very bitter.***

*(Photo taken 2013).*



**Old Paterson Wharf.** (Image courtesy Patersonriver.com.au).

It appears that Patrick and Margaret Sullivan lived in the Carrabolla area for about ten years. There was a cluster of Irish settlers in the Carrabolla and Mount Rivers area, no doubt creating some stability and familiarity for the Sullivan family. February 1875 saw the marriage of their eldest child, Mary to Ralph Turner from nearby Lostock. In the same year, their son Luke married Mary Ann Bogan from another well-known local family and their second daughter, Annie, married Patrick Daly of Tamworth. Mary's and Luke's marriages took place in St Helen's Catholic Church at East Gresford which was erected in 1867. St Helen's was obviously a significant place in the lives of the Sullivans as it was the nearest Catholic Church to Carrabolla and an article in the *Maitland Mercury* of 8 May 1869 shows that Patrick Sullivan and Family contributed £2.0.0 to the Continuation of Subscription List in aid of the church. That would have been a considerable donation in those days.

Margaret Sullivan née Ward died on 3 April 1877 aged 59 years. The cause of her death was given as 'debility for about four weeks'. Margaret was buried in the Catholic Cemetery at East Gresford.

The Electoral Roll for 1877-1878 shows Patrick as a resident at Lostock, New South Wales. Perhaps he moved in with his son Luke after his wife Margaret died, although Bridget was apparently still living with Patrick up until his death. Luke held a leasehold property at Lostock during that period. Patrick's other four sons – Patrick (Junior), James, Owen and Michael, were also listed as being in residence at Lostock at that time. This situation appears to have continued through until 1881-1882 when Patrick was shown in residence at Butlers Flat apparently living with his son James, who was also shown in residence at Butlers Flat. Luke continued to have a leasehold property at Lostock. Patrick's name was not recorded in any Electoral Roll after 1882 although his son James was shown to be in the area up until 1890 and Luke remained at Lostock until 1900 when he moved to the Glennies Creek area.

Patrick Sullivan died at Lostock on 23 September 1885 aged 76 years. His death certificate showed that he died from natural causes although he was ill for two years. His burial place was stated as Lostock, but as there is only an Anglican Cemetery in present day Lostock, it is presumed

that he was buried in the Mount Rivers private cemetery on McNamara's land where many Catholics were known to be buried. However, only five headstones remain standing there today and Patrick Sullivan's is not one of them.

No details of Patrick's children were entered on his death certificate, probably because the informant of his death was the local undertaker, Frederick Wilson, from Paterson and not a family member. One would suppose that a member of his own family would have informed of his death, as in 1885 both Luke and James were known to have been in the Lostock area as well as Bridget and Mary, wife of Ralph Turner (Junior). Perhaps it was considered convenient for Mr Wilson to inform of the death as he would have had easier access to the Paterson Court House.

It is interesting to note that Patrick's name was entered as "O'Sullivan" on his death certificate. It seems probable that he reverted to this form after the death of his wife in 1877 where his name was inscribed as "O'Sullivan" on her headstone. No doubt Patrick held strong feelings for his Irish heritage and certainly some antipathy towards the English, based on his memories of the hardships that his family had suffered as tenants of English landlords, and also some of those hardships that had carried over into the new colony for Irish Catholic emancipists. The English usually dropped the "O" when entering Irish names on documents and it appears that Patrick wanted to reinstate the "O" to his surname. His feelings were probably well known in the local area and certainly Frederick Wilson either knew or was instructed to enter his name as "O'Sullivan". The only one of his children known to have taken up the Irish form of his surname was his daughter Ellen when she entered the convent in 1880.

At the time of Patrick's death at least five of his children were married and one had entered the convent.

It seems fairly certain that Owen did not marry. He was known to have been in trouble with the law on at least two occasions, once for unlawfully killing a bullock for which he was sentenced to hard labour in Maitland gaol for three years.

Patrick (Junior) received approval for a pre-emptive lease at Lostock in September 1872, but it is not known whether he took up the lease. His name appears in the Electoral Rolls at Carrabolla-Lostock between 1870 and 1879. The *Sands Country Directory* shows him at Lewinsbrook in 1881-1882. Patrick married Annie Teresa Withers at West Maitland in 1883 and records show that Patrick and Annie lived at Wambo near Warkworth between 1906 and 1915. Wambo Estate was a large grazing property which was subdivided into smaller farming allotments in 1908. Later, most of the area was taken over by the Wambo Colliery. There is a grave in the Sandgate Catholic Cemetery, Newcastle, bearing both Patrick's and Annie Teresa's names – his death is shown as 8 July 1927 and Annie Teresa's as 6 August 1925. Patrick's age was stated as 79 years which is accurate for his birth date of 1 March 1848. Patrick's name was given as a contact on Mary Turner's medical record showing he was alive in January 1920. The record stated that he was her brother and was a miner at Newcastle at the time.

Margaret Mary, the youngest child of Patrick and Margaret Sullivan, married Joseph Withers in 1885. It is thought that Joseph was probably a relative of Annie Teresa Withers who married Patrick, although this has not been authenticated. Margaret and Joseph had eight children. Margaret died at Mayfield on 28 June 1925.

Michael Sullivan married Margaret Carroll in 1896 at West Maitland. They had four sons and one daughter, the eldest son, Andrew (born 1898), was on active service in France when Michael died in April 1917. Michael worked for the Hon J N Bruncker of *Maudeville*, Oakhampton for many years although it is not known in what capacity. Bruncker was a Stock and Station Agent in Maitland before entering Parliament. Michael later joined the Railways Department engaged on deviation work. He lived in Bourke Street, West Maitland. Michael's children were all given Sullivan family names except for Andrew who appears to have been named for his wife's father. His children were – Ellen (1896), Patrick (1900), Michael (1902), Owen (1904), Luke (1907) and Annie (1910). Ellen and Patrick died in 1900. Andrew enlisted in the Army in June 1915 aged 18 and it is believed he returned to Australia in June 1919.

Ellen Sullivan entered the Order of St Joseph of the Sacred Heart at Perthville in New South Wales on 1 September 1880 as a postulant. This was the Order of sisters founded by Mary MacKillop (now Saint Mary of the Cross MacKillop) and Father Julian Tenison Woods at Penola in South Australia. In 1872 the Order established a convent at Perthville, then known as 'The Vale'. Ellen's birth date was shown on her Convent record as 1 July 1855, but this seems to be out by a few years, as she is recorded as being born in 1851 in the New South Wales Register of Births, Deaths and Marriages. Her convent record also shows her name as 'Ellen O'Sullivan'. When her mother died in 1877, her father Patrick had his name inscribed on Margaret's headstone as 'O'Sullivan', so maybe Ellen changed her name to O'Sullivan after that time. Ellen's record shows that she entered the Novitiate on 19 March 1881 and was professed on 19 March 1882. Her final profession was on 19 March 1888. Ellen's religious name was Sister Mary Helena and her apostolate was 'teacher'.

Ellen entered the Perthville convent at a period when the Sisters of St Joseph were going through quite a turbulent time in establishing the Order in the Bathurst Diocese. The outcome was the splitting of some of the Perthville sisters away from the central organisation, so that those remaining came under the control of the Bishop of Bathurst. Shortly after Ellen entered the Novitiate, a group of sisters left Perthville to establish the Order in Bourke, New South Wales. By 1884 a convent had been opened at Nyngan. It seems these convents formed their own group due to their isolation from the main convent at Perthville and by 1887 they had expanded their mission to Nymagee and Balranald. At some stage, Ellen, as Sister Mary Helena, joined those sisters in the far west and seems to have spent a good deal of time at Nymagee. She was in Hillston during part of 1892 where the sisters established a mother house. The Diocese of Wilcannia was constituted in 1887 and the western group of sisters remained there, however, they later learned that they were free to choose either to remain under the authority of the bishop or join with the central Josephites at North Sydney. Ellen was amongst those who chose to go to North Sydney in 1901-1902.

It is not known what Ellen did when she first arrived in North Sydney. At some stage she was posted to a school at Rookwood (now Lidcombe) which had been opened by the Josephites in 1885 (St Joachim's). She was the Principal of the school from 1909 until 1917. Ellen died on 8 October 1922 at Mount Street, North Sydney and was buried at the Gore Hill Cemetery, Section BH, Grave No 90. The following obituary was printed in *The Garland* - a publication of the Sisters of St Joseph:

"After years of patient suffering, Sister M Helena was called to her reward on the 8<sup>th</sup> October, at St Joseph's Convent, Mount Street, North Sydney. Sister M Helena was one of

the pioneers of the Sisters of St Joseph, in the “out-back” country, having lived many years amid the difficulties and privations of Nymagee, Nyngan, and other small towns far removed from the spiritual and corporal comforts generally found in more central districts. Her labours were rewarded by the success she sought – the imprinting of the truths of faith in the hearts of many poor children who might otherwise have small chance of any religious instruction. Requiem Mass was offered for the repose of Sister M Helena’s soul by the Rev Father Pfeiffer, SJ, after which the remains were conveyed to Gore Hill Cemetery, where the Rev Father Maguire officiated at the grave. – R.I.P.”



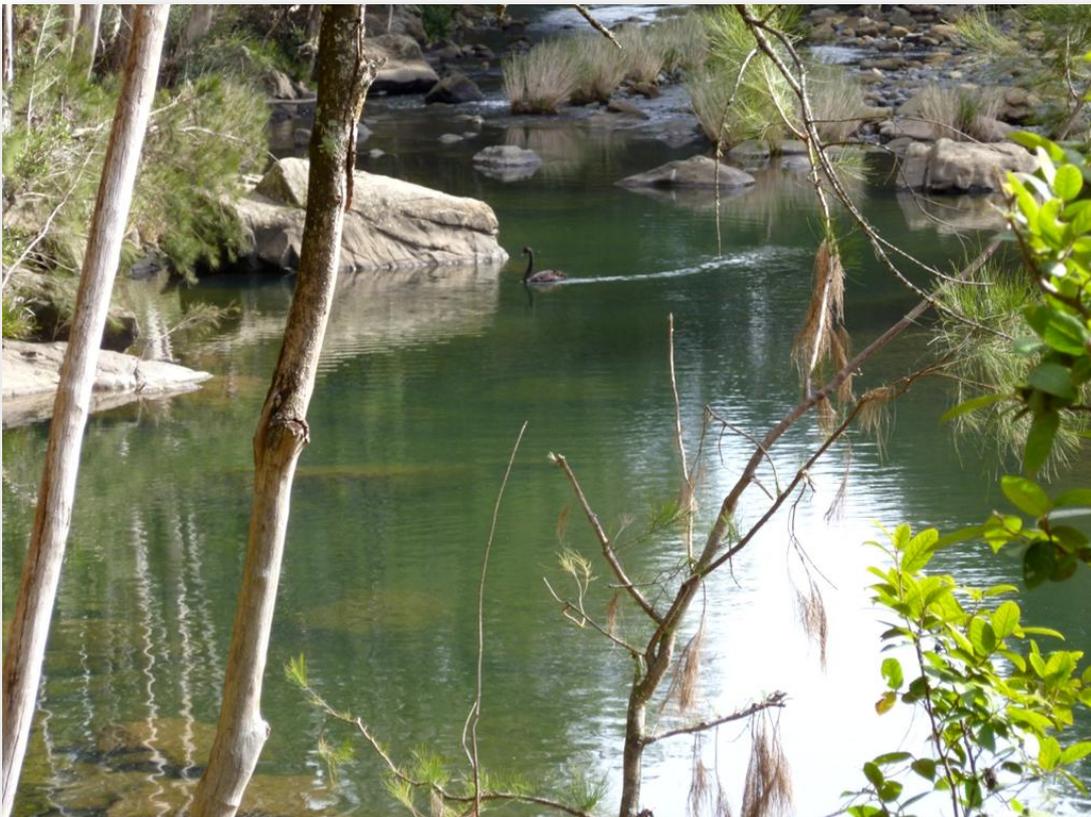
***Sister Mary Helena (Ellen Sullivan) was one of the sisters at St Joachim’s Convent sometime between 1901 and 1920. She was Principal of the School between 1909 and 1917. (St Joachim’s Convent Lidcombe from the Golden Jubilee of St Joachim’s Church Lidcombe in 1935. Image courtesy Auburn City Library Service).***

It appears that Bridget married a widower, Andrew Reardon/Riordan in 1889 (four years after her father’s death) when she was 39 years old. They were married in Gunnedah and had four children. Andrew was born in 1834 and came from either Glenbeigh or Glenflesk in County Kerry, Ireland. He died in 1897 at Horse Shoe Bend near Carroll, New South Wales. It is thought that Bridget died at Manilla in 1927. Bridget and Andrew had four children. Bridget probably met her husband while visiting her sister Annie Daly who lived in the Tamworth district. It is believed that Annie and Patrick Daly had seven children.

Luke and his wife Mary Ann had 11 children. Luke was said to have been a big, powerful man who occasionally drank too much and got into some altercations as a result. He worked as a carrier for a time, but later worked as a farmer, mainly engaged in dairy farming. In 1885 Luke purchased one of 19 villa sites adjoining the court house in a subdivision by Boydell at East Gresford, but no further information is available about this land. He became a well known and respected figure in the Lostock area and later in the Glennies Creek and Cheshunt district where he moved in 1900.

An article in the *Durham and Gloucester Advocate* of 23 November 1900 stated that “the genial Luke Sullivan and his family” were very much missed. He was involved in community affairs early in his life, at one time seconding a motion at a public meeting in support of home rule for Ireland. He was active in promoting the establishment of the Lostock School and post office and was active again around the Singleton area, being on a committee for the opening of Dunolly Bridge at Singleton in 1905. Luke died at Singleton on 25 February 1919 aged 70. Mary Ann died many years later in September 1938 at the age of 83. They were both buried in the Singleton Catholic Cemetery.

James Sullivan’s life is a mystery. He is shown in the electoral rolls from 1877 to 1890 in residence at Lostock and Butler’s Flat, but nothing is known of his life after 1890.



***A peaceful scene from the Paterson River on the Carrabolla Road.***  
(Photo taken 2013).

## MARGARET SULLIVAN née WARD

Margaret Ward was born c.1820 in the Parish of Clontuskert, on the eastern side of County Galway, Ireland. The townland where she appears to have lived was called Kellysgrove. Kellysgrove was in the northern part of Clontuskert Parish, not far from the town of Ballinasloe. Margaret's parents were Owen Ward and Honorah Usher. Her father was a miller and he probably worked in one of the four corn mills in the area and lived in one of the small stone dwellings typical to the area. These dwellings usually consisted of two rooms made from loose stone walls with mud floors and roofed with sod and thatch. Some of the dwellings had windows and chimneys.



***Thatched cottage in County Clare, Ireland.***

*Image courtesy County Clare Library.*

In 1828 the Grand Canal (constructed between Dublin and Shannon Harbour in County Offaly) was extended to the town of Ballinasloe, passing through Kellysgrove. The advent of the canal branch would have provided a boost to the welfare of the town through employment and increased business. Margaret's parents, Owen and Honorah, had wealthy family members from the merchant and landowner classes who would have benefitted from the extension of the Grand Canal. However, the

Clontuskert Parish was not immune to the agrarian unrest that was prevalent during the 1820s and 1830s and the area also experienced several periods of famine prior to the Great Famine of the 1840s.

### ***Grand Canal Bridge at Lismanny.***

*(Image courtesy Joe Molloy, Ed.*

*'The Parish of Clontuskert – Glimpses into its Past').*



Margaret's childhood was cast in the beautiful east Galway landscape under the influences of her family and no doubt her Catholic religion. The surrounding countryside had many historic landmarks including Bronze Age burial mounds, ringforts, old family homes and the Augustinian Priory of St Mary (known locally as the 'old abbey'). This was the homeland where Margaret grew up.



***Augustinian Priory of St Mary (known locally as the 'old Abbey').***  
*(Image courtesy Joe Molloy, Ed. 'The Parish of Clontuskert – Glimpses into its Past')*

It is possible that Margaret was baptised in St Augustine's Church at Crossconnell, which was built in 1820. She probably attended a hedge school, as it is known that she was able to read and write. A more formal education could have been obtained from the Glenloughaun School which had been established in 1819, but this was built near St Matthew's Church of Ireland, so it seems unlikely that a young Catholic girl would have attended classes there.



***St Augustine's Church at Crossconnell and the old school at Glenloughaun.***  
*(Images courtesy Joe Molloy, Ed. 'The Parish of Clontuskert- Glimpses into its Past')*

The circumstances of Margaret's life that led to her leaving Ireland are not known and could have resulted from a number of events. The Great Famine did not occur until a few years after Margaret's departure, but that is not to say that famine was not an influence, or perhaps one or both of her parents died. Immigration schemes to bring women to Australia started in the early 1830s and often orphans, servants or factory workers were actively recruited with low priced

bounty tickets. Many women arrived without prospects, so Margaret was fortunate to have a position waiting for her. A sincere effort was being made to balance the male-female ratio in the new colony. In 1833, 80% of the population of eastern Australia consisted of male convicts. The Government Immigration Agent supervised shipping arrangements and provided information to emigrants, institutions and parishes about the facilities existing for assisted emigration to New South Wales. Private companies were also formed to arrange for assisted passage to the Colony. The first concrete evidence of Margaret's life comes from the records of the ship *Nabob* on which she was a passenger.

NAME (Hus.)	WARD, Margaret			(Unmarried)
OCCUPATION	House maid			
REL.	R.C.	AGE 20 Yrs	R.W.	Yes
NATIVE PLACE	Clontuskert Co Galway Ire.			
FATHER	WARD, Owen			
MOTHER	Anna			
NAME (Wife)				
OCCUPATION				
REL.		AGE	R.W.	
NATIVE PLACE				
FATHER				
MOTHER				
CHILDREN				
SHIP	"Nabob"	DATE OF ARRIVAL	21 Feb 1842	VOL 63

The *Nabob* sailed from Liverpool in England on 9 September 1841. Margaret Ward was listed on the Assisted Immigrant Passenger List as an unmarried female, a native of Clontuskert, County Galway, Ireland. Her occupation was described as housemaid, her religion - Roman Catholic and age - 20 years. She could read and write and her father was listed as 'Ward, Owen' and mother as 'Anna'. Margaret's voyage registration took place in Cavan, which is about 60 miles to the north of Ballinasloe. No information is available as to the reason she registered in Cavan, but it appears unusual because most of the other passengers were registered in Ballinasloe. Perhaps she was in service as a house maid to a family in Cavan at the time, although it must be stated that many Irish women had to pose as domestic servants in order to gain an assisted passage to Australia, while in essence they had little experience at that kind of work, coming from mainly peasant families. A bounty of £19 for Margaret's passage was paid by Agents, A B Smith and Co. This company brought agricultural workers, domestic servants etc to work for settlers who were already established in the colony. Those settlers who employed the immigrants paid A B Smith and Co the cost of the passage. Margaret was placed under the protection of Michael McMahon and family while on board the *Nabob* and her immediate future was mapped out as a servant of Mr James Skinner of Morpeth for a salary of £16 a year with rations. Another passenger to be

conveyed to Mr Skinner's property was a young man named John Head, a carpenter, aged 18 years.

The ship *Nabob* was 'not one of the best' for conveying passengers according to the Ship's Surgeon Superintendent, whose report contained interesting information about life on board during the passage to New South Wales. He described the passengers amusing themselves with music, singing and dancing and the men playing games such as hunt the slipper and leapfrog. A school was established for the children and Sunday services were held consisting of prayers and a sermon every week unless the ship rolled so much that the participants could not stand. Daily rations consisted of –  $\frac{3}{4}$  lb bread,  $\frac{3}{4}$  lb pork, fish or herring, 3 drams tea,  $\frac{1}{4}$  ounce coffee, 1  $\frac{1}{2}$  ounces sugar,  $\frac{1}{2}$  lb flour on three days per week, 6 pints water. In addition, there were oatmeal, peas, rice, butter, vinegar, fresh fruit and lime juice. The *Nabob* docked at Madeira for two days and the Cape of Good Hope for five days, replenishing food supplies.

Along with Margaret, two other young women – Mary Doeherty and Bridget Devery, both from Galway, were placed under the protection of Michael and Mary McMahon. Michael McMahon was a blacksmith from County Clare and had four children aged between seven and thirteen.



***Morpeth - from the new steam company's wharf, NSW, 1835.***

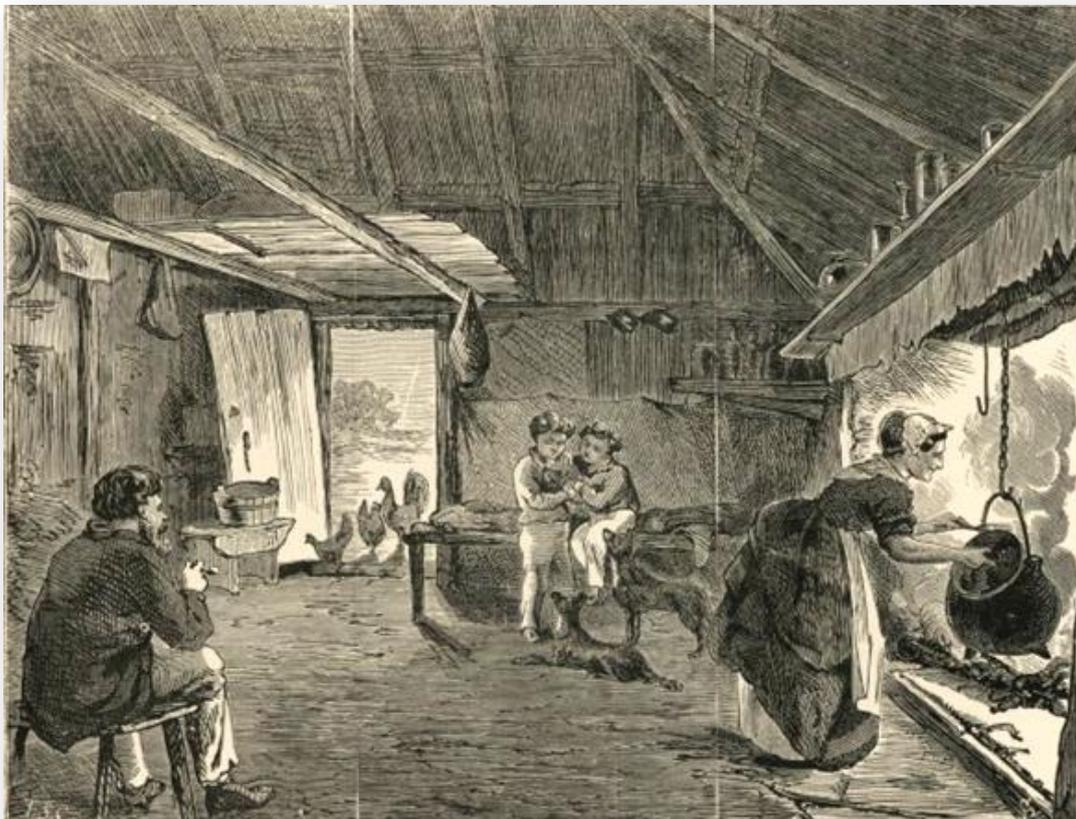
***Painting by Edward Charles Close (1790-1866).***

*(Image courtesy National Library of Australia – nla.pic-an4563834-s17).*

The *Nabob* arrived in Sydney on 21 February 1842 and it is assumed arrangements were made for Margaret to be transferred to a coastal steamer for her passage to Morpeth.

At the time of Margaret's arrival in Morpeth in 1842, the town served as the main port of the Hunter Valley for trade and travel to Newcastle and Sydney. The town had many substantial buildings as well as a Catholic Church constructed of timber. However, it seems that James Skinner was establishing a farm at *Melville* (near present day Anambah) with his wife and children, so Margaret did not settle in Morpeth. Margaret's position as house maid to the Skinners would no doubt have been a very busy one, as three children were born between 1837 and 1841. Another two children were born to the Skinners in 1844 and 1846, but Margaret had already moved on by then.

Sometime between February 1842 and April 1843, Margaret met Patrick Sullivan. Patrick had gained his Certificate of Freedom in September 1842 and apparently continued to live and work in the Allyn River area, possibly still with Charles Boydell at his property, *Camyr Allyn*. Margaret was presumably working with the Skinner family up until her marriage. The couple were married at St Joseph's Catholic Church at East Maitland on 24 April 1843. The witnesses to the marriage were William and Mary Flynn.



***The Shepherd's Hut by Samuel Calvert (1828-1913). Perhaps Margaret and Patrick lived in a similar dwelling to that pictured.***

*(Image courtesy National Library of Australia. Nla.pic-an10324729).*

Unfortunately, as with most women who lived in the early days of Australian settlement, very little documentation exists about Margaret's life. It is usually necessary to follow the lives of fathers, husbands and sons to gather the essence of women's lives, unless they wrote letters or passed stories on to their children, which does not appear to be the case in this instance. Males were recorded into history through entries into Electoral Rolls and other directories and indices which excluded females until they gained the right to vote or became widows with property.

While females were included in censuses, they were usually listed as appendices to a male householder and as a number, not a name.

Margaret went on to have ten children within 13 years. (The names and birth dates of the children have been entered into Patrick Sullivan's story above). With a husband and ten children to care for, Margaret's life would have been one of considerable hardship, she did not marry into wealth, but to an ex-convict who would have been trying to establish himself as a free man. It was not until 1859 that Patrick was shown to hold a leasehold property at *Lewinsbrook* and by that time, all ten children had been born. Margaret's employment had been as a house maid, not a farm servant, so one wonders how she managed living the life of a farmer's wife. As a paid servant she would have worked in a household that might have had reasonable facilities, although that was not always a guarantee, but life as a farm worker's wife would have been vastly different. What type of dwelling did they have? Perhaps it was not unlike the two room cottage where she probably had lived in Kellysgrove with earth floors and a thatched roof, but with wattle and daub walls in place of stone. Many women were required to do hard physical work, such as milking cows, making butter, baking bread, preserving fruit and meat and growing vegetables. Some kept poultry and even bees. Keeping house would have been burdensome in primitive conditions. It would have been a constant battle to keep the flies and animals away from the food. Most settlers' huts did not have access to water and the woman of the house would have had to collect it from the river or a well. Doing the family washing was heavy and hot work as it was often done over an open fire using a large metal pot or pouring hot water into a wooden tub. Margaret gave birth to twins in March 1848 - five children under four years of age! One wonders how she managed. When the tenth child was born the eldest was only 12. As the children grew older they would have been required to help their mother with the work and the older children would have been also expected to look after the younger ones even though they were still very young themselves.

Margaret's religion would have sustained her through her many hardships. No doubt Father Lynch called in on the Sullivans during his rounds of the Paterson Valley performing baptisms and other religious functions. Margaret was recorded as the 24<sup>th</sup> Communicant attending religious duties at Paterson in May 1851. There was a Catholic Church at Summer Hill near Vacy which opened in 1840, but the East Gresford Catholic Church did not open until 1867.

Sometime between 1859 and 1869 the family moved to Carrabolla in the Upper Paterson River district where Patrick had obtained a freehold property. This was a very isolated area at the foot of Mount Royal, north of Lostock. Patrick and Margaret are thought to have lived in the area for about ten years. Margaret's life would no doubt have continued to be quite difficult, pioneering a new area, but by this time her children would have been fully involved in helping around the house and on the farm. The boys would have been fully occupied in helping their father establish the farm and possibly already out seeking independent work.

In February 1875, Margaret's daughter Mary was married followed by Annie and Luke in the same year. It is presumed that the remaining seven children were still living with the family.

Margaret died at Lostock on 3 April 1877 at the age of 59 years. Her Death Certificate showed the cause of death as 'debility' over a four week period. There was no doctor present at her death. She was buried at the East Gresford Cemetery and the undertaker was Ralph Turner, presumably her son-in-law, Mary's husband. No Minister was present at her burial and the registered

witnesses were Henry Creighton and Ralph Turner. The informant of her death was her son, Patrick. All Margaret's children survived her, which was quite remarkable considering how common childhood death was at the time.

Following Margaret's death on Saturday, 14 April 1877, a notice appeared in the *Maitland Mercury and Hunter River General Advertiser* on page 1:

"Died at Lostock, Upper Paterson, April 4<sup>th</sup> 1877, Margaret, the beloved wife of Patrick Sullivan, in the 59<sup>th</sup> year of her age, leaving a large circle of friends to mourn their loss. Sweet Jesus have mercy on her soul."

Margaret's grave is situated in the graveyard across from St Helen's Church in East Gresford. The inscription reads:-



**Sacred**

**To the Memory of  
MARGARET WARD  
The beloved wife of  
Patrick O'Sullivan,  
Native of Kings Grove,  
County Galway, Ireland.  
Died at Lostock  
Upper Paterson  
4<sup>th</sup> April 1877  
Aged 59 years.**

*(Photo taken 2013).*

The inscription on the lower half of the headstone reads:

***"May her soul rest in peace. Amen.***

***Oh may we weigh with solemn thought  
The holy counsel which she gave.  
Now to the heart more deeply brought  
As here we sorrow o're her grave."***

The additional small headstone was marked - "M.W. O'S. 1877".

The reference to 'Kings Grove' on Margaret's headstone is thought to have been a mistranslation of 'Kellysgrove', the townland in the Parish of Clontuskert where Margaret was born.



***Cliffs along the Paterson River and the hilly country beyond.***

*(Photo taken from the Carrabolla Road between Lostock and Carrabolla in 2013).*

## MARY TURNER née SULLIVAN

Mary Sullivan was born at Gresford, New South Wales on 4 February 1844 and baptised by the Rev J T Lynch on 16 April 1844. Her parents were Patrick Sullivan and Margaret Ward. Patrick was a convict from County Clare in Ireland who arrived in New South Wales on 14 November 1834. Margaret came to Australia as an assisted immigrant from County Galway, Ireland, arriving in Sydney on 21 February 1842. Mary's parents were married at St Joseph's Catholic Church East Maitland on 24 April 1843.

Little is known of Mary's early life other than what can be gleaned from her parents' lives. One imagines she would have been brought up in quite difficult circumstances as one of many children in a tenant farmer's household. By the time she was six years old her mother had six children. No doubt Mary, as the eldest child and a girl, became a much needed helper to her mother. She probably had to spend a lot of her time looking after the small children and would have been required to help with the household chores when she was very young. Mary was only 12 years old when her youngest sibling was born in June 1850, the tenth child of the family. It is hard to imagine that Mary received an education other than instruction in household duties - cooking, washing, ironing, mending etc. She would of course have received religious instruction as part of the everyday conversation with her mother.

Mary's mother and father could read and write so they would have wanted their children to receive at least a basic education and it is assumed that Mary could read and write. Because it is not known where the family lived at the time (although it is thought that they were in the Gresford-Lewinsbrook area), it is not possible to nominate a school where Mary and her siblings would have attended. Schools were opening and closing around the whole Paterson Valley during the 19<sup>th</sup> century, one of which was a school at Lewinsbrook which opened in 1852 and closed in 1854. Mary would have been eight years old in 1852, so could have attended school there.



*An old bush school*

Mary remained with her family up until the time she married Ralph Turner (Junior) in 1875, so she would have moved with them from the Lewinsbrook area to Carrabolla when they relocated to that district, thought to be around the late 1860s. The Carrabolla area was a much more isolated district than the Gresford-Lewinsbrook area, but there were many Irish settlers in the area, so the Sullivan family probably felt some security being with families from a similar background and religion to their own.

Mary was 25 years old in 1869 and as a farmer's daughter would have been involved in the day to day activities associated with a farm household. Her brothers Luke and Owen were still in Lewinsbrook at the time, so Patrick Junior (21) together with James (16) and Michael (15) would have been the main support for their father, however, women often had to do outside farm work as well and it is not unlikely that Mary did this also. Bridget (19) and Ellen (18) would no doubt have been required to provide household assistance, while Margaret (13) would probably have been attending school or at least occupied with school lessons.

There were many families in the area and no doubt they gathered for social events and religious services and the younger people would have partnered off as time went by. Amongst the families known to be in the Mount Rivers, Lostock and Carrabolla region at the time were the McNamaras, O'Neills, Bogans, Lawrences, Turnbolls, Whites, Kellys, Wilsons, Hopsons and Sopers. Mary's mother, Margaret and Ralph's mother, Ellen, were both Irish and of a similar age, so would no doubt have had a lot in common and possibly became friends. One could fairly safely believe that the older Sullivan boys had come into contact with the Turner boys when they moved to the area and it can be assumed that the girls of both families became friends also.



***St Helen's Catholic Church at East Gresford erected in 1867.  
The roof was originally shingled. (Photo taken in 2013).***

The first blush of youth had certainly passed Mary by, and Ralph was just a few years younger than her at age 28, but they evidently decided that they were suited and married on 7 February 1875, just a few days after Mary's 31<sup>st</sup> birthday. The wedding ceremony took place at St Helen's Catholic Church at East Gresford. Ralph's brother, John, and Mary's

sister, Ellen, were their witnesses and the priest was Rev Timothy O'Neill. Their marriage certificate described Ralph as a farmer and Mary as a farmer's daughter. At the time of their marriage all of their parents were living and one assumes would have approved the marriage.

It is presumed that Ralph would have set himself up as a farmer in his own right and would have established some sort of dwelling for himself and his new wife. It was probably very primitive by today's standards, but photographs from the late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries show many bush families in primitive constructions of wattle and daub with bark roofs such as the one shown opposite.

Ralph and Mary apparently started their life together in the Lostock area, not too far from where the present St John's Anglican Church is situated. Documents relating to Ralph's occupation as Receiving Officer for mail, show his address as 'Upper Lostock', which was somewhat confusing, but that title was given when the post office at Mount Rivers was called 'Lostock'. Other documents show Ralph Turner's address as 'Simmons Creek' and 'Strathisla'. It has not been possible to determine whether these are all one and the same, but most evidence points to that theory being correct.

Before the year was out, Mary gave birth to her first child – Stephen James, on 26 December 1875. William David followed in 1877, then Margaret Matilda in 1879 and Alfred Patrick in 1881.

Mary's married life would most probably have been a lot easier than that of her mother's. She was older when she married and well used to farm life. Her four children were reasonably spaced and she was 37 years old when her youngest child was born. Mary's day would have included the

usual household duties – cooking meals and baking on a fuel stove, cleaning, washing - boiling the clothes in an outside copper and saving the washing water to wash the floors, ironing with a flat iron heated on the fuel stove, sewing clothes for all the family, darning, mending and knitting the usual socks, pullovers and other items. She would have preserved fruit and vegetables to provide for when those items were out of season. She would have made butter, kept the waterbag full, carried water to the house for daily use and for bathing, and acted as nurse and comforter when illness arrived – probably providing poultices, bandages, iodine, castor oil and even Bonnington’s Irish Moss for the bad coughs and colds! Mary would probably have perused the newspaper advertisements to find suitable materials and wool as well as other items. Newspapers, such as the *Town and Country Journal*, advertised summer and winter bales of goods for approximately £5 a bale, quite a sum of money in those days, but the bales contained numerous items including a quilt, sheeting, mattress ticking, calico, fabrics for dresses and such. Some bales were specifically designed to contain men’s, women’s and children’s clothing. Mail order was a common means of obtaining goods when the alternative was to wait for the Indian trader to pass through the district or make occasional trips to the nearest town with shops that stocked the required items.



***An early settler's home of wattle and daub with a bark roof and parget wooden chimney.***

*(Image from Romsey Australia).*

Mary probably helped her husband on the farm as most wives in similar circumstances did and when Ralph became the Upper Lostock Receiving Officer she most likely helped with that occupation as well. Many women took on the role of Postmistress in that era.

While it is not known where Mary’s children went to school, it is likely that they went to the Lostock School which opened in 1878. One of their cousins, Frederick Turner, was a foundation pupil at the school. Ralph Turner’s name was included in a petition to the Minister of Public Instruction requesting the building of a new Public School and Master’s residence at Lostock in April 1881. Ralph’s brother, Thomas, and Mary’s brother, Luke, also signed the petition. A sketch plan of the proposed school and residence was accompanied by a site map of the Paterson River

at Lostock listing the families who expected to have children attending the school. Amongst those names were Turner and Sullivan. The sketch shows the Turner family close to the school, unfortunately, it does not show which Turner family. However, other evidence points to it being that of Ralph Turner (Junior).

While Mary and Ralph were married in the Catholic Church as Gresford, they probably did not travel there regularly to attend Mass or other religious services. The priests continued in the tradition of Father J T Lynch, making the rounds of the Paterson River district and it is known that in 1897, Father Flanagan conducted Mass at Mount Rivers once a month. One assumes that the Turner family would have attended Mass on those occasions.

An incident that occurred in September 1900 would have caused the Turners and their neighbours some concern. Two wanted men, Joe and Jimmy Governor, were at large in the Upper Paterson region. They were known as the 'Breelong Blacks' because of murders they had allegedly committed against the Mawbey family in the Breelong area near Gilgandra. They had previously lived around the Paterson River and had worked on several large properties in the district, so were in familiar territory. In September 1900, they were still at large and had robbed the Cowleys and the Lawrences at Carrabolla, taking blankets and rations. During the stock sales at Gresford, news got out that the Governors were robbing the huts in the district and shortly after, the saleyards were deserted. Apparently, most people made for their homes to protect wives and families, but it was said that large numbers of people slept at the residence of Mr H H Brown of *Colstoun* (local Member of Parliament) for a couple of nights and also at Hancock's and Beatty's hotels in Gresford. Not long after this event the Governors were captured near Wingham relieving the local population of a tense situation.

By 1901, most of the Sullivan family had either died or left the district. Mary's brother Luke moved to the Glennies Creek area near Singleton in 1900. It seems that Mary and Ralph's own family were still living with them at this time as the 1901 census shows four males and two females present in the household, but by 1902 William had married and would presumably have left home although it appears he stayed in the area.

On 26 April 1906, Mary's husband Ralph Turner died suddenly at age 59. The Coroner found the cause of his death was heart disease. He was buried at the Roman Catholic Cemetery at Mount Rivers, witnesses being James Bogan and Frederick Flory. An obituary published in one of the local papers described him as a well respected and well liked man who would be sadly missed.

It is not known what Mary did following the death of her husband Ralph. It appears that three of her children - Stephen, Margaret and Alfred were still at home, but Margaret married around 1907 and it seems that Stephen was in the Glennies Creek area from around 1910. So what did Mary do? It is not known what became of Ralph's leasehold property upon his death. Did the family relinquish it? Mary would have been eligible for an old age pension when she turned 65 in February 1909.

Perhaps Mary moved to the Glennies Creek area where her brother Luke and his wife Mary Ann resided. It appears that Mary Turner and Mary Ann Sullivan were good friends as her name was later listed on Mary's medical record as her first contact. At some stage Mary lived at Greenlands near Singleton. Greenlands was a locality, but also the name of a property owned by the Andrews family. It is not known on whose property Mary resided.

Mary was admitted to the Newington State Hospital and Asylum for Women on 12 January 1920. Newington House was built by John Blaxland (the explorer) in 1832 and was later converted for use as an Asylum for infirm and destitute women and opened in 1886. It had hospital wards for very feeble or chronically ill aged women and operated as an asylum for destitute or aged women. A test of indigency was applied as a prerequisite for admission and no charge was made other than deduction of a proportion of the person's pension.



***Newington House was converted to an asylum for infirm and destitute women in 1886.***

*(Image c.1894 by Boileau, F (Francis) Sir, 1830-1900, National Library of Australia).*

Mary's medical record showed the following details:

<i>Surname:</i>	Turner	<i>Christian Name:</i>	Mary	<i>Age:</i>	74	<i>Religion:</i>	R.C.
<i>Occupation:</i>	Dom	<i>Birthplace:</i>	Gresford, NSW	<i>Residence in NSW:</i>	Life		
<i>In Commonwealth:</i>	Life	<i>Last Address:</i>	Greenlands near Singleton.				
<i>If Married Where:</i>	Gresford NSW	<i>At What Age:</i>	26	<i>To Whom:</i>	Ralph Turner		
<i>Father's Name:</i>	Pat'k Sullivan	<i>Birthplace:</i>	Ireland	<i>Occupation:</i>	Farmer		
<i>Mother's Christian Name and Maiden Surname:</i>	Marg't Ward	<i>Birthplace:</i>	Ireland				
<i>If British Subject:</i>	Yes						
<i>If Army, Navy, Old Age or Invalidity Pensioner:</i>		<i>Nature of Pension:</i>			---		
<i>Children Living:</i>							
<u><i>Names</i></u>	<u><i>Ages</i></u>	<u><i>Addresses</i></u>					
Stephen Jas Turner	40	Nundah, Singleton, NSW.					
Wm Turner	38	Carrabola; P.O. Lostock.					
Mrs J Tracey	35	Weston					
Alf. Pat'k Turner	33	Branxton, NSW					
<i>Names (or Number) of Children Deceased:</i>	--	(husbd, Ralph T. Dead)					
<i>Names and Addresses of Husband, Wife, Brothers and Sisters:</i>							
Sister-in-law -	Mrs Luke Sullivan,	near Singleton					
Sister -	Sister Helena,	Rookwood Convent, St Josephs,	Sydney.				
Brother -	Pat'k Sullivan,	Miner, Newcastle, NSW.					

**Hospital Record:**

Institution Admissions and Discharges:

Ward C

Admitted on: 12.1.20.

Discharged on: 5.2.20

Died 4 a.m.

Mary's death certificate showed the following information:

5 February 1920: Died at the State Hospital and Asylum, Newington, Municipality of Lidcombe, aged 74 years (*actual age 76*).

Cause of death – Carcinoma of Uterus.

Medical attendant – Ethel Remfry Morris, Registered

Last saw deceased – 4 February 1920.

Father – Patrick Sullivan, Farmer, Mother – Margaret Ward

Informant – Certified by Paul Walker for Manager State Hospital and Asylum, Newington, Municipality of Lidcombe.

Buried on 6 February 1920 at Catholic Cemetery, Rookwood.

Undertaker- William Metcalfe & Coy.

Minister – R McElligott, Roman Catholic

Witnesses – Wilfred Metcalfe

Born – Gresford NSW

Marriage – Gresford NSW, 26 years to Ralph Turner (*actual 45*)

Children –

Stephen J – 40 (*actual age 44*),

William - 38, (*approx.43*)

Mary (Margaret Matilda) - 35, (*approx. 41*)

Alfred P - 33, (*approx 39*)

Living.

None deceased.

Mary was buried in the Catholic Cemetery at Rookwood, New South Wales in an unmarked grave – the location is - Section M2 L 1971, Type: B, (see white marker in photo above).

One wonders why Mary was admitted to the Newington State Hospital when she lived so close to Singleton at the time. The only plausible explanation seems to be that her sister, Ellen (Sister Mary Helena) was in some way influential in this decision. Sister Helena, a member of the Order of the Sisters of St Joseph of the Sacred Heart, had been at the Rookwood Convent (later Lidcombe) for many years, although it is not known if she was still there in 1920. Mary's medical record shows that she was not in receipt of any pension and her occupation was listed as "Dom" or domestic, which seems to suggest that she was working somewhere as a domestic servant up until the time she was admitted to Newington. There seems to have been only one property in the Greenlands locality that would have been large enough to employ a domestic servant. That property was called *Greylands* and it contained a substantial homestead on 4,000 acres. It was owned by the Bailey family who came from the St Albans area of New South Wales.

It is not known whether any of her children were able to be with her prior to her death, although it appears that they were not. It is to be hoped that her sister Ellen was with her during her few weeks at Newington as it would have been a very sad ending, to die alone, of a dreadful disease, in an asylum for the indigent.

