

Plaques unveiled by Friends of the Historical Irish Catholic Cemetery of the Logan Agricultural Reserve

Approximately 70 descendants of the Cusack, Gaven, Moloney, Rafter and Ryan families, and other interested people gathered at the Logan Reserve Irish Catholic Cemetery on 20 July 2008 to unveil plaques in honour of the pioneering families.

Mark McCabe, a member of the Friends of the Historical Irish Catholic Cemetery of the Logan Agricultural Reserve (FotHICCoLAR), presented some information about the background of the plaques' unveiling, from the formation in 1998 of the Cusack Muster Committee, to the writing of a book about the Cusack Family of Tamborine and book launch at the Cusack Family Muster in May 1999.

After the Cusack Muster, it was the committee's aim to place plaques on all Cusack burial sites at the Tamborine Cemetery, The Cusack Family Tamborine property and the old Logan Reserve Catholic Cemetery.

Seeking permission to do so in the Logan Reserve cemetery, committee members met with the Catholic Property Trust Manager in September 1999. The Catholic Church could not give permission as the cemetery property did not belong to the church but to John Gaven.

The committee then had to research further to find out whom John Gaven was and who was buried in the cemetery by tracking down relatives. In the meantime, the committee applied to have the cemetery listed as a historic site with the Environmental Protection Agency in 2001, but was unsuccessful.

In January 2008, Brian Drynan, Mary Harris and Mark McCabe reformed the committee and worked towards preparing the grounds for the plaque unveiling.

Fr Jim O'Brien of the St. Maximilian Kolbe Parish performed the dedication ceremony to honour the memory of these pioneering families. Fr Jim also blessed the plaques and Moloney gravestone with Holy Water that he obtained from Knock in Ireland.

A group photograph was taken between the cemetery sign and plaques. The dedication was followed by a picnic lunch on the one acre of ground still owned by the Corporate Trustee's Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Brisbane, as it has done since 25 January 1865 – this section of Portion 40 originally owned by John Gaven from 10 August 1863.

The graves are situated to the rear, in what is now known as 296A Logan Reserve Road, Logan Reserve. The owner of 296A is John Gaven, who died in 1913 and is buried on his own land.

Some of families in St Mary's Parish can trace their ancestry to these pioneers, such as Flanagan, J Rafter, J Ryan, P Cusack, M Moloney, J Moloney, Gaven, Other names of property owners that were in the Logan Agricultural Reserve in those early times were J Deeran, T Colgan, A Macpherson, C Corcoran, P Dunne, J Waters, J Rohan, Thomas Shaw, S Rowney, J S Beetham, W O'Shea, A Pimm, T Plunkett, M Yore, M O Donnell, P Egan, R Leo, P Leo.

Portion 44 was owned by Deeran and Colgan. In 1874, a four-acre piece of ground in the south west corner of Portion 44 had a new church built upon it. This church appears to have been opened on 16 January 1875.

Mark McCabe



Source: Mark McCabe



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