

Eacott Family

The Eacott family was among the pioneers of the Peel region. In 1829/30, Thomas Eacott left his farming community in Sutton Veny, Wiltshire, and came to Australia as an indentured servant to Thomas Peel (Hannan, 1997: ix). Thomas Eacott, his pregnant wife Elizabeth and



daughter, Anne (aged 3) boarded the ship, the “Rockingham”, from England and arrived in Cockburn Sound, Western Australia, by May 1830 (Richards, 1978: 36). During their temporary stay at the settlement of ‘Clarence’, Elizabeth Eacott died during childbirth, as did the newborn shortly after (Hannan, 1997: ix).

Some residents of Clarence, including Thomas Eacott and daughter Anne, Thomas Peel, Dan Myerick and the Tuckey family, left the settlement by the end of 1830 and headed by foot to Mandurah (Hannan, 1997: x). On arrival, they commenced clearing the scrub by hand on their allocated land and began their new lives with few possessions (Hannan, 1997: 3).

Thomas Eacott (with the help of his future son-in-law Dan Myerick) built his first house by 1831, now known as Eacott Cottage, which still stands on the land adjacent to Mandurah High School (Richards, 1993: 8).

Thomas Eacott remarried in 1839, to Charlotte Tuckey, the daughter of John Tuckey who also came to Australia on the “Rockingham” (Richards, 1978: 426). Thomas and Charlotte moved to Barragup in 1840, sent by Thomas Peel to manage “Bowes Estate”. Barragup House (also known as Moroerinup) lies on this estate and is thought to have been built by Thomas Eacott before he and Charlotte resided here; they had two out of their ten children here (Hannan, 1997: 6). They later returned to Eacott Cottage. Thomas’s daughter, Anne, a young passenger on the “Rockingham”, married Dan Myerick in 1843 in Mandurah (Hannan, 1997: 2). Eacott Cottage and Barragup House are both currently heritage listed.

Descendants of Thomas Eacott and Charlotte Tuckey played an integral role in the early development of Mandurah and many of these descendants still reside in the Peel Region today.



Timeline

1829

Thomas Eacott left his farming community in England and came to Australia as an indentured servant to Thomas Peel. Thomas Eacott, his pregnant wife Elizabeth and daughter, Anne (aged 3) boarded the ship, the *Rockingham*.

1830

Arrived in Cockburn Sound, Western Australia.

During their temporary stay at the settlement of 'Clarence', Elizabeth Eacott died during childbirth, as did the newborn shortly after.

Some residents of Clarence, including Thomas Eacott and daughter Anne, Thomas Peel, Dan Myerick and the Tuckey family, left the settlement by the end of 1830 and headed by foot to Mandurah.

1831

On arrival, they commenced clearing the scrub by hand on their allocated land and began their new lives with few possessions. Thomas Eacott (with the help of his future son-in-law Dan Myerick) built his first house known as Eacott Cottage, which still stands and lies within the grounds of Mandurah High School.

1834

Thomas Eacott is granted 50 acres of land by Thomas Peel where Mandurah SHS is now located.

1839

Thomas Eacott married Charlotte Tuckey, the daughter of John Tuckey who also came to Australia on the *Rockingham*. They had 10 children, 6 girls and 4 boys.

1840

Thomas and Charlotte moved to Barragup in 1840, sent by Thomas Peel to manage "Bowes Estate". Barragup House (also known as Moroerinup) lies on this estate and is thought to have been built by Thomas Eacott before he and Charlotte resided here; they had two out of their ten children here. They later returned to Eacott Cottage.

Eacott Cottage and Barragup House are both currently heritage listed.

1843

Thomas' daughter, Anne married Dan Myerick.

Descendants of Thomas Eacott and Charlotte Tuckey played an integral role in the early development of Mandurah and many of these descendants still reside in the Peel Region today. The girls married into the Ward, Morphett, Stinton, Mewburn and France families.

References:

Hannan, C. 1997. *The Eacotts of Mandurah and their Descendants*.

Richards, R. 1978. *The Murray District of WA: A History*. Shire of Murray.

