

CITY OF DONCASTER & TEMPLESTOWE HERITAGE STUDY.

MAJOR CHARLES NEWMAN LONE GRAVE SITE, EAST OF HOMESTEAD ROAD, TEMPLESTOWE. A10.

HISTORY : Major Charles Newman served as commanding officer of the 51st Bengal Native Infantry of the East India Company, in India.¹ He retired on September 6, 1834. He arrived at Van Diemen's Land at the end of that year and worked supervising convict labour. In 1837, he sailed to Port Philip to select land. He followed the Yarra on the north side near Heidelberg (which had been already sold), and built a turf cottage, then a house "Pontville", about 1845, which still stands.² In 1846-7 he purchased "Monckton Station" and built the house "Monckton" in the early 1850s.³ He acquired a pre-emptive right of 640 acres and held a pastoral lease on 10,000 through Templestowe, Warrandyte and East Doncaster, grazing cattle & sheep and breeding horses. His own racetrack was on Homestead Road. "Monckton" was demolished in 1968.⁴ In 1855, Newman left Templestowe to live in Lonsdale Street, as he went blind. Both he and his wife were buried in the "family crypt at "Monckton" at the end of Homestead Road." The seven Newman graves were moved to Templestowe Cemetary in 1910. "It is said that...the Major's bones are still lying near the gate to "Monckton" (now "Windrush") at the end of Homestead Road."⁵

VISUAL DESCRIPTION : A beautiful site overlooking the Yarra Valley to the North and the Creek Valley to the East. There is a large pine shading an old dam.

COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS : Victoria has a large number of lone grave burials. Most are now unmarked, like this one. Those that are identifiable are "extremely significant". Examples are : James "Tally Ho" Taylor of Major Mitchell's party (1836) on the Broken River at Benalla; of Alexander Miller (1862) at Murrindindi, Yea; of Agnes Kistock (1847) Havey Park, Strathbogie; and of Eliza Archer (1847), Crooke Street, Lucknow at Bairnsdale.⁶

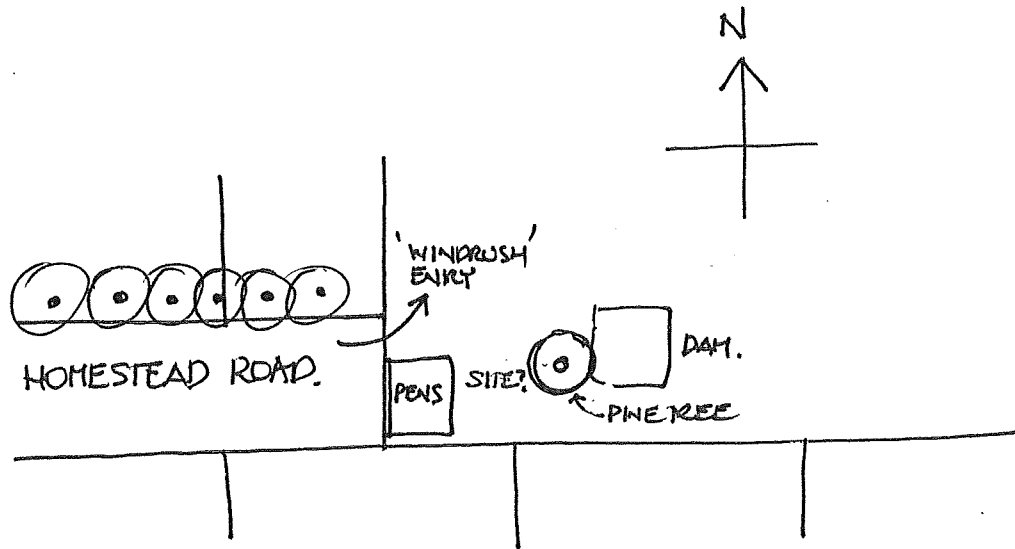
SIGNIFICANCE : An unmarked lone grave site of local historical significance of Major Charles Newman and his family. Newman was the first settler of Templestowe in 1837, the builder of "Pontville" (c1845) and "Monckton" (1850s, now demolished).

INTACTNESS : The gravestone has been relocated.

CONDITION & THREATS : No threats known. The site should be sufficiently disinterred to determine whether it still holds the remains. If so, it should be identified and interpreted and protected from rabbits and stock.

REFERENCES : 1. Hazel Poulter (Editor Jim Poulter), Templestowe : A Folk History, Templestowe, 1985, p.4. This history is indebted to Mrs Poulter's outline.
2. Context Pty. Ltd., City of Doncaster and Templestowe. Heritage Study, Doncaster 1991, p.61 for "Pontville". Paul de Serville, Port Philip Gentlemen, Melbourne 1980, p.193 has him living "in Oriental splendour at Heidelberg".
3. Refer : A26, "Windrush", Homestead Road, Templestowe.
4. Poulter, op.cit.
5. Ibid.
6. Celestina Sagazio (Editor), Cemetaries : Our Heritage (National Trust of Australia Victoria), Melbourne 1992, pp.117-119 & 154-155.

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17.7.93.