

Thomas Smith #5139 – Notes supplied by Mick Oliver

Thomas Smith married Sarah Bridgman on 7 June 1865 in the Registry Office, Geraldton. Witnesses at the wedding were T/L Valentine Trew and Catherine Gale Baughan, Sarah's married sister.

Thomas and Sarah farmed the back flats of Greenough in the vicinity of the school site (reserve 5041 in the east corner of Victoria Location 148) at the intersection of Kennedy and Georgina Roads.

In 1862 Thomas is noted as owning and farming 40 acres and employed ticket of leave men on occasions from 1866 to 1880.

The Greenough North Back Flats school was conducted in their house. Two of their children, Alice and Ellen, were teachers at the school.

The property reverted to the crown in 1893 – the same year that daughter Alice resigned, and the family moved into Geraldton.

After their move Sarah ran a boarding house in Gregory Street, Geraldton

Thomas died on 29th June, 1894 of heart disease and cerebral haemorrhage and was buried in the Geraldton (Apex Park Pioneer) Cemetery,.

His death was reported in Victoria Express on 6 July 1894.

An old resident of the district and colony has passed away in the person of Mr Thomas Smith whose death took place at his residence Gregory Street, Geraldton on Friday evening last, the result of a paralytic stroke. Deceased was 61 years of age and a colonist for 40 years and during three fourths of that time has resided in the district. He lived a humble though exemplary life and was renowned for his kindly disposition. His decease has occasioned sincere regret and sympathy for his bereaved family.

Sarah lived with her daughter Annie and Walter Witham in her last ailing months at WW1 Blackboy Camp, Greenmount. Sarah was living there when she died on 25th October 1918 and is buried in Midland Cemetery.