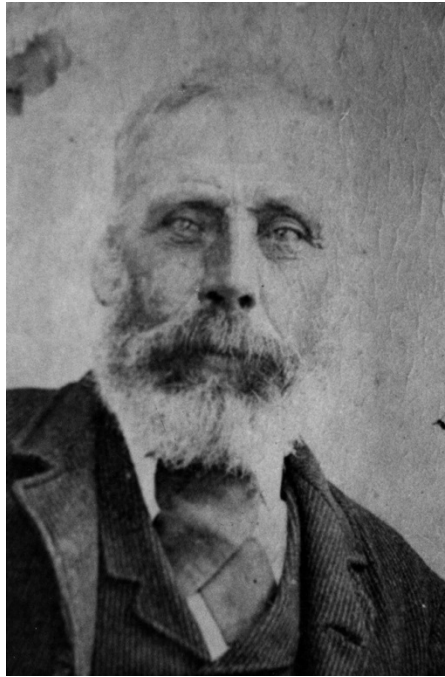


**JOHN ARTER (c 1825-1920)**



John Arter is recorded as having been born in Downham Market, County Norfolk, England about 1825. His father, William Arter, was either a sailor or shipbuilder according to family stories. I was told that William was killed in a fall at Great Yarmouth shipyards but I cannot verify this.



***Downham Market Town Square 2011 taken from our hotel room***

John's mother was Susan Blade but nothing is known of her background.

Again according to family lore John had an older sister Phoebe who had children which John was called on to babysit before he ran away to sea at age 14. Nothing further is known about John until he turned up in Geelong where he met and married Margaret Goonan from County Galway, Ireland. The wedding took place in February 1854 at St Mary's Catholic Church in Geelong.

<b>MARRIAGE CERTIFICATE</b>	
DISTRICT: -	
REGISTRATION NO: 54/636	LOCAL REG NO: 56
WHEN MARRIED: "31st February 1854" WHERE MARRIED: St Mary's Church Geelong	
<b>HUSBAND:</b>	
NAME: John ARTER	CONDITION:
BIRTHPLACE: Downham England	
DATE OF DECEASE/DIVORCE OF FORMER WIFE: -	
CHILDREN: LIVING: -	DEAD:
-	
RANK/PROFESSION: Carter	AGE: 23
PRESENT RESIDENCE: Geelong	USUAL RESIDENCE: -
PARENTS' NAMES: William ARTER, Susan ARTER	
<b>WIFE:</b>	
NAME: Margaret GOONAN	CONDITION:
BIRTHPLACE: Galway Ireland	
DATE OF DECEASE/DIVORCE OF FORMER HUSBAND: -	
CHILDREN: LIVING: -	DEAD:
-	
RANK/PROFESSION: Servant	AGE: 21
PRESENT RESIDENCE: Geelong	USUAL RESIDENCE: -
PARENTS' NAMES: Thomas GOONAN, Mary WHITE	
FATHER'S RANK/PROFESSION: Farmer	
CELEBRANT: Horatio GEOGHAHAN	WITNESSES: John PARTY(?) signed Winifred GOONAN x

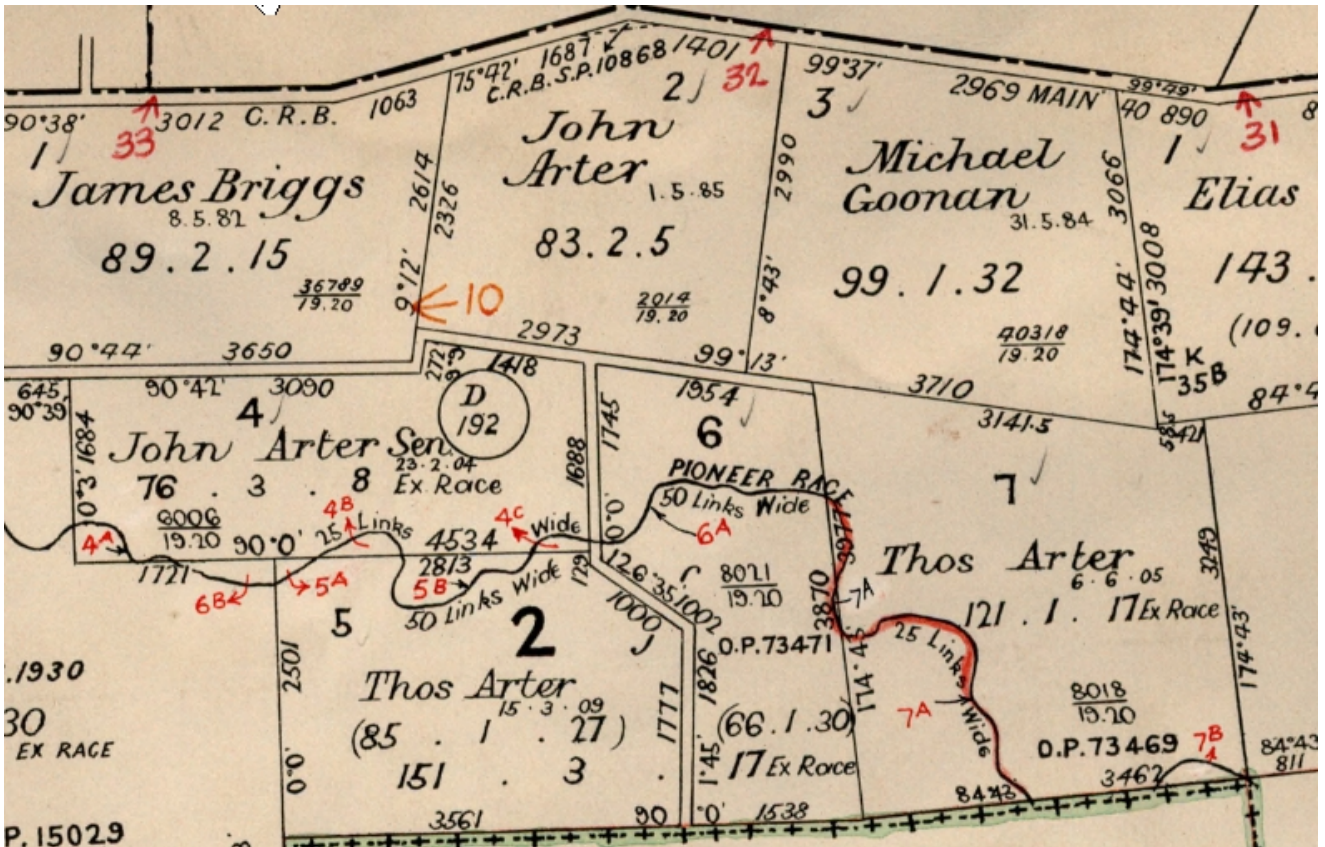
***Transcript of Marriage Certificate of John Arter and Margaret Goonan - (note date!)***

According to information I received in 1997 from a Frank Arter<sup>1</sup>, John "sought gold at Bendigo, Buckland, Stanley and Beechworth". Frank prepared his own family tree and also "my" Arter family tree which has been very informative. It shows John's father William as a UK-born porter but gives no other details – similar for John's mother, Susan Blade.

John and Margaret were next recorded at the Buckland goldfields where their first daughter Maria was born in 1855. Their first son John was born at a locality known as The Woolshed near Beechworth in 1857. Susan followed in 1859 at Indigo near Chiltern, then my grandfather Thomas on 18 December 1860 in Yackandandah, and finally William also in Yackandandah in 1863. William died the same year.

About 1860 John and Margaret selected land at Glen Creek about 18km south-east of Yackandandah. Family story has it that John worked at the Sutton Mine at Hillsborough during the week while he cleared land and built a home on their selection at weekends.

The Parish Plan of Dederang shows that Crown Allotment 2 Section 2 being of area 83 acres 2 roods 5 perches was granted to John Arter on 1 May 1885, and Crown Allotment 4 Section 2 area 76 acres 3 roods 8 perches to John Arter on 23 February 1904. Subsequently adjacent allotments were granted to John's son Thomas, my grandfather.



**Arter Land at Glen Creek in the Parish of Dederang**

John Arter died in Yackandandah on 18 February 1920. He was still riding a horse until just before his death. Several weeks before he died John suffered a carbuncle on his back. It was kept bandaged by his daughter-in-law, my grandmother Annie, as infection was always a worry in those days. One day he apparently "escaped" from her supervision, and she found him tending his vegetable garden and the bandage down around his waist with the carbuncle exposed. It became infected and some weeks later he died from blood poisoning at age 94.

## DEATH CERTIFICATE

DISTRICT: Yackandandah REGISTRAR: John MOLYNEUX  
REGISTRATION NO: 20/3963 LOCAL REG NO: 1319  
WHEN DIED: 18 February 1920 WHERE DIED: Cottage Hospital  
USUAL PLACE OF RESIDENCE: Glen Creek Shire of Yackandandah County of Bogong  
NAME & SURNAME: John ARTER  
OCCUPATION: Retired Farmer SEX & AGE: Male 93 years  
CAUSE OF DEATH: Carbuncle, Toxaemia  
DURATION OF LAST ILLNESS: Carbuncle 5 weeks  
LEGALLY QUALIFIED MEDICAL PRACTITIONER BY WHOM CERTIFIED: Dr McINTOSH  
WHEN LAST SAW DECEASED: 17 February 1920  
NAME & SURNAME OF FATHER: William ARTER  
OCCUPATION OF FATHER: Sailor  
NAME OF MOTHER: Susan ARTER formerly BLADE  
SIGNATURE DESCRIPTION & ADDRESS OF INFORMANT: Thomas ARTER Son  
Glen Creek  
REGISTRATION DATE: 18 February 1920 WHERE REGISTERED: Yackandandah  
WHEN & WHERE BURIED: 19 February 1920 at Yackandandah Cemetery  
UNDERTAKER: John C McDERMOTT  
MINISTER/WITNESSES: McC CLUNE, R W GARVEY  
WHERE BORN: Norfolk England  
HOW LONG IN AUSTRALIAN STATES: 67 years Victoria  
WHERE MARRIED: Geelong Victoria AT AGE: 23 years  
TO WHOM: Margaret GOONAN  
CONJUGAL CONDITION AT DEATH:  
ISSUE NAMES & AGES: Maria 64 John 62 Susan 60  
Thomas 58 William deceased

Wodonga & Towong Sentinel 27 Feb 1920

## OBITUARY

### MR. JOHN ARTER

Mr. John Arter, aged 94, was perhaps one of the hardest and best known pioneers of the Dederang district. After an illness of a few weeks he died in Nurse Fraser's private hospital, Yackandandah, early on Wednesday morning of last week. The old gentleman was one of the well-known identities of the district. He came to that part of the State in the gold rush, and, for a time, followed the vicissitudes of the prevailing industry in the Woolshed, after which he took up land at Glen Creek, Dederang, where he resided for many years. There was a very large funeral at Yackandandah, the Rev. Fr. O'Connor reading the burial service. Mr. J. C. McDermott carried out the mortuary arrangements.

### *Transcribed Death Certificate and Obituary for John Arter*

## NOTES

1. From comprehensive family trees he kindly supplied in 1997 (both his and mine), Frank Arter does not appear to be closely related to me as his English forebears are from County Gloucestershire. Frank's brother, John, was known to me when he was employed at the Titles Office, Melbourne as an examining surveyor. The father of Frank and John was Frank William Arter who was Surveyor-General of Victoria from 1952 to 1967. He occupied that position when I did my final oral examinations under him to qualify as a Licensed Surveyor in late 1967.