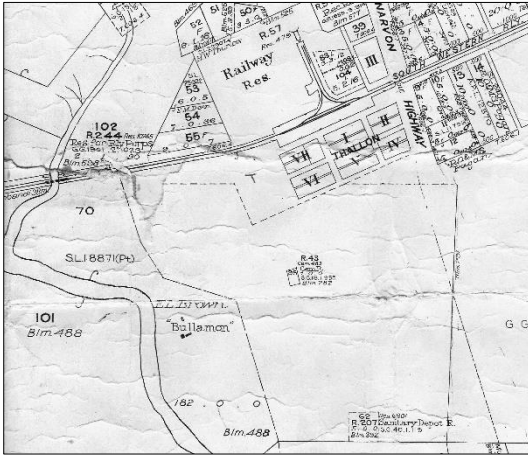


Most people who died at Thallon in the first few years after its establishment in 1911 were buried in or near Thallon, but the burial place of most individuals is now unknown. At least one burial apparently took place in what is now the Old Thallon Cemetery before the one-acre cemetery reserve was formally established in 1918. Several graves with old wooden fences were visible there until the early 1960s. There were also graves in the former Railway Reserve, now within the current cemetery off William Street. No trace of the graves remains but older residents remember the old wooden fence around a grave in that area.

Roads and transport improved from the 1920s and Thallon people were then usually buried at Mungindi or St George. Since the 1990s there has been a return to local burial, by choice, and there are now many graves in the William Street cemetery. Some people are buried on family properties and in more-recent years some have chosen to be cremated and have their ashes buried or scattered, including on the Moonie River.

Old Thallon Cemetery, in remnant woodland on the sandhill near the town, is an appropriate place to remember the many people who have died in this district who now have no known grave. Some of them are named in this booklet. To reach the cemetery, head south on the Highway (towards Mungindi) and follow the signs from the turnoff onto the gravel road on your right, just out of Thallon.

DO YOU KNOW OF SOMEONE BURIED HERE? IF SO, PLEASE TELL US.



The Thallon Cemetery Reserve established in 1918 is near the centre of this map. The present fence was erected by the Balonne Shire Council in 2013 to replace an earlier metal fence built around what people familiar with the area had estimated to be the cemetery's location, after all traces of it had disappeared. The sign was erected at the same time. (This map is part of Town of Thallon, Qld Survey Office, 1963.)

SOME EARLY BURIALS AT AND NEAR THALLON

On 9 March 1914, sixty-year-old **Alexander John Maclean** was found dead in his camp near the trucking yards on the western outskirts of Thallon. He had been ill with dysentery for about two weeks and had tried to treat himself with medicine bought from local stores. There was a doctor at Mungindi but the state of the road would have made it difficult to reach him. Mr Maclean was buried at Thallon, possibly near his camp.

Donald McDonald, a carrier on the Thallon-St George route, was found dead somewhere between Goorarooman and Thallon on 20 January 1915. He had left his camp the previous evening to look after his horses, and it was thought that the horse he was riding ran him into a tree. His body was found by another carrier and brought to Thallon for burial.

Mrs Rachel Donoghue died at Thallon on 13 August 1915, aged 63, and was buried there the same day. Originally Rachel Cohen from Mudgee, she married John Donoghue and eventually moved to Angledool. At the time of her death, she was staying at Thallon with her daughter Rachel whose husband, John White, was a tank-sinker. Another daughter, Esther (Mrs Fred Rodney) also lived at Thallon. Mrs Donoghue's grave was one of those in the former Railway Reserve off William Street. About 17 years after her death, her body was exhumed so she could be buried at Angledool with her husband, who died in 1931.

Michael Ryan died at Thallon on 5 April 1916. The *Brisbane Courier* reported that "The funeral took place to the new cemetery on the

Mungindi-road." That would be what is now the Old Thallon Cemetery: at that time, the road to Mungindi was via Dareel. Mr Ryan, who was 87, was born in Ireland but spent most of his life in Australia. He died at the home of his daughter, Mrs McNulty, who owned the boarding house.

Benjamin Joseph Mitchell, aged 1 year and 4 months, died of convulsions on 13 August 1916 and was buried at Thallon two days later. Benjamin's parents were Stephen and Lilian Mitchell whose family are long-standing residents of Thallon. Mrs Mitchell was taking Benjamin to Mungindi for medical attention but he died shortly after they left Thallon.

Thelma May McCasker, daughter of Henry and Ida McCasker of Yarran Vale, Daymar, died from meningitis at the Thallon hotel on 22 February 1917, a few days before her third birthday. She was buried at Thallon the next day. Her grave is also believed to be near William Street, and to have been originally surrounded by a white picket fence with blue top.

Joseph Arthur Beswick, known locally as **Ranger Metcalf**, was buried at Thallon on 17 April 1924. Metcalf, aged 23, was a station hand on Wandibindle Station near Gradule, where he was shot by another employee on the morning of 16 April. That man was arrested at Wandibindle by Constable McKinley of Talwood and eventually found guilty of murder. Constable Laird from Thallon drove to Wandibindle to assist with the investigation and when Dr McDonnell from St George had completed a post mortem, arranged for Metcalf's body to be brought to Thallon for burial. His grave is believed to be in the cemetery on the sandhill. Mrs Devine, wife of the station owner, received a bravery award for her efforts to keep the shooter calm and dissuade him from carrying out his threat to also kill a young woman employed on the station.

Lawrence Moore died at Eumerella on 28 October 1924, aged about 80, and was buried in the sandhill cemetery next day. He grew up in the Mudgee area but came to Queensland as a young man. He was married at St George in 1869 and worked on stations in the border district before taking up a small selection near Goodooga. In later life, he spent most of his time with his eldest son near Augathella, but when his health declined, he came to Thallon to live with his daughter, Mrs Amy Gibson.

Funerals at Thallon were usually conducted by the townspeople, in the absence of a clergyman, as there were no resident clergy.

In the late 1920s, an **unknown man** was buried by Constable Laird and Herb Gibson next to where his body was found, near the Dareel Road on the Three Mile Reserve across the river from Eumerella.

DEATHS AND BURIALS IN THE DISTRICT BEFORE 1911

We acknowledge the traditional custodians of this land, the Gomeroi (Gamilaroi/Kamilaroi) people, whose ancestors are buried in this district.

Near the old Bullamon homestead is a headstone inscribed "In memory of James Poole Hill born 15th February 1875 died 2nd August 1877 also Frank Reginald Robert Hill born 17th March 1879 died 22nd June 1882. The dearly loved sons of James and Lucy Anna Hill." Their father was the manager and part-owner of Bullamon Station. Charles Moody, who died aged eight months on 14 April 1865, is also buried at Bullamon.

Other people buried in the district before 1911 include sixteen-year-old Letitia Plant, who died in 1910 as the result of burns after her clothes caught alight while she was cooking on an open fire. Dennis Bellamy, a stockman also known as James Green, and Adam ("Scotty") Thomsen, a horse-breaker and wool-presser, drowned in the Moonie River while crossing on horseback: Bellamy in 1873 and Thomsen in 1893. Robert Phillips died from a self-inflicted gunshot at the Bullamon woolshed store in 1881. Oliver Malyn, a shed hand, died suddenly at the shed in 1895. Michael Collins, a member of a dam-making team, died at Tommoo (part of Bullamon) in 1876, from a head injury received at the Nindigully hotel several days before. Charles Davis, a boundary rider, died suddenly at Tommoo in 1881. They were all buried on the stations where they died.

Men often died in the bush and some remained unburied. The body of a man dead for about six weeks, believed to be wool classer Henry D'Amontong, was found in the Briery Paddock of Bullamon in 1900 and was buried by the police. In 1868, Hugh Bryden, a former station manager on the lower Moonie, left Bullamon to ride to Mungindi. After a short distance, he stopped for his horse to drink from the river while his companion rode on. Despite a search, Bryden was never seen again. His horse was found, unsaddled, and months later stockmen found his hat, which looked to have been removed from his body by dingoes.

Some of the many Chinese people working and living in the district during the late 19th and early 20th centuries would also have been buried in the area but the location of their graves is now unknown.

Acknowledgements and further Information

This booklet was written for and published by the Thallon Progress Association Inc. in 2021. For information about the history of Thallon and district, see the booklets titled "Old Bullamon", "The Old Town" and "Roads of Yesterday".