

## Chapter Two

### ROBERT & MARY (nee Cooper) MARTIN the Elder and his second wife, Margaret (nee Henderson).

The Martin family were the first of my family to arrive as free settlers. Documents relating to their travel may be found in *Historical Records of Australia* (years 1803/1804) and other archival material. *Around the Black Stump, A History of the Coolah – Dunedoo – Mendooran areas* Researched by Roy Cameron and edited by Kathielyn Job is another valuable source of information.

*Historical Records of Australia*

*Permission and arrival in Australia: Under Secretary Sullivan to Governor King (per transport Experiment.)*

Downing Street,  
London  
30<sup>th</sup> November 1803.

Sir,

*Lord Hobart has directed me to transmit to you herewith a list of persons who have obtained his Lordship's permission to proceed as Settlers to New South Wales, and I am to desire that upon their arrival in the settlement, you do give the necessary orders for their being subsisted for twelve months and that the Ration of Provision be issued to each individual in the usual manner.*

*The Avocation which these persons have hitherto followed are specified against their respective names and as they have all produced very favourable testimonies of their character, I trust they will not only contribute to the prosperity of the Settlement by their industry and proper demeanor, but they will be found to deserve your protection and favour.*

*The total number of the beforementioned persons including women and children amount to FIFTY NINE PERSONS.*

*I have, etc*

JOHN SULLIVAN.

*Enclosure:*

*The following list of free settlers...*

*Robert Martin, tailor, wife and three children, [recommended by] Jas Howard 10 Brewer Street [London]...*

Sponsor's letter

*My Lord, Permit me to recommend to your Lordship's notice the Bearer, Robert Martin, by Trade a Tailor and who is in every n... well qualified to carry on that Business and is very desirous of going to Port Jackson in New South Wales. His having been brought up in the North of England lvrsthon Is...of Agriculture is of the age of 35, his wife 36, one daughter 15 years, a son 5 years and a daughter of 4 months. He is studiously sober and industrious having of him knowledge of him this 20 years and he has been in the habit of working in my shop this last 8 years 'in difficult times. Hoping your Lordship will excuse this liberty I have taken of breaking into your Lordship's time.*

*Permit me to present myself. Your Lordship's most obedient servant and most...*

The letter was signed James Howard of No 11 Kings Street Golden... Robert Martin's address was 46 York Street Winchester.

Another list in the NSW Archives contains the information re the clothing brought on the journey by the women. Mary Cooper and three children were listed. Martha was on a separate list to that of her mother. Mary had two pairs of shoes, 2 pairs of stockings and 2 shifts.

*The Sydney Gazette* 1804 mentioned that *Of the female prisoners brought out by the Experiment 21 convalescents were sent to the General Hospital and the majority of the others went to Parramatta.*

[One of the convicts, Mary Atkins, was by 1806 employed by the Martin family.]

*Nine settlers with their families came by the above ship; the wife and one child of ----- McGrath, and the wife of -----Wilson died on the passage, as did also the child of another.*

This un-named child was probably Caroline Martin who is not mentioned in Australia. Missing also is Martha Martin who most probably remained in England following the ships return to Cowes for repairs after being damaged in a gale.

The original port from which the ship set sail was London. It left England on 3<sup>rd</sup> December 1803 but ran into a gale in the Bay of Biscay and sustained considerable damage. Following

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repairs at Cowes she left on 2<sup>nd</sup> January 1804 and arrived in Sydney 24<sup>th</sup> June 1804.

The master was Fran J Withers and the ship had on board 130 female convicts and 2 male convicts along with the free passengers. The ship traveled via Rio de Janeiro to Australia.

From Sydney the ship then traveled to Canton with a cargo of 43 tons of coal and 5,481 feet of timber.

On 6<sup>th</sup> July 1804 Robert Martin received a grant of land No 1186 in the District of Musgrave Place. A note in a paper in 1821 mentioned Martin land adjacent to Richmond Hill.

In the early 1820s Robert Martin's interest moved to Cobbora area where he received a grant that was officially proclaimed 30.9.1839.

By 1828 Robert Martin owned 120 acres of cleared land, 9 horses and 200 cattle.

Robert Martin like most free settlers used convict labour. The name of one is referred to in a notice in *The Sydney Morning Herald* dated 27<sup>th</sup> November 1808 -

*Eloped from the service of Robert Martin, settler at Richmond on 12<sup>th</sup> November 1808 Robert Ellis, about 30 years of age, walks lame on the right leg. Marked with small pox, fair complexion. Wore a brown line smock and dark trousers.*

*Any person harbouring or employing the said Robert Ellis will be punished with the utmost severity of the law.*

*By the command of his Honor the Lt Governor WL Lawson, Magistrate of Police.*

Robert Martin and his son Robert Jr are mentioned in quite a number of newspaper articles and other documents. Robert the Elder could not read or write but it is apparent that he was quite a good business man.

Some references to Robert Martin and family follow:

Robert Bowd *Macquarie Country*:

*The first move to build a church at Richmond in 1835 when an appeal was opened. .. A committee consisting of Messrs William Cox Sn, William Cox Jr, A Bell, George Bowman, W Faithful, Martin, G Palmer, Dight, C Powell, T Parnell, CP Wood and Reverend Styles was formed to promote their objective.*

From the *Australian* 27<sup>th</sup> May 1841.  
Martin's store being opened at his cottage March Street Richmond.

Subscriber to the Hibernian Fund 2<sup>nd</sup> August 1832. Robert Sn was appointed to the Protestant Committee, *Windsor Richmond Gazette* 19<sup>th</sup> July 1836. He was also a subscriber to Bourke's statue and memorial - 1838.

Another article in the *Sydney Gazette* 23<sup>rd</sup> November 1827 noted that an assigned servant of Robert Martin, Bernard Short, was charged with ill treating his dogs.

*Sydney Gazette* 24<sup>th</sup> July 1828 William Watts was convicted of stealing from Robert Martin and the issue of 26<sup>th</sup> June 1838 notes that Robert Martin obtained a grazing license in Bligh.

*Sydney Morning Herald* 30<sup>th</sup> March 1844

*Found strayed on to my farm at Cobbora in the County of Bligh, fifty two miles beyond Mudgee, a chestnut filly silver mane and tail; she is about three years old, thirteen and half hands high, white blaze, brown forehead, 2 hind fetlocks white, branded JN near the shoulder and NR off the shoulder. The above filly has been running at Cobbora since 1<sup>st</sup> June last and will be restored to the owner on reimbursement and payment of expenses to Mr Robert Martin Jr of Richmond, Mr Robinson Windsor. If she is not claimed within one month from the date hereof she will be sold at Mudgee to pay the said owners. Robert Martin Jr March 28<sup>th</sup> 1844.*

Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> February 1910 *Windsor Richmond Gazette*. Recollections by Alf Smith - edited by Robert Farlow.

*Lennox Street... A little further down the street stood another skillion - somewhere about where George Eather is living, only some 30 or 40 yards back from the Street - in which a man named Wilcox lived. Old Johny Roberts, uncle to Charley who lived on butchering for so many years in Richmond got a woman out of the*

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factory; in the course of time old Wilcox married her. Somewhere about where Rol Woods is now residing there was a weatherboard house with a cedar tree in the front, where George James and Robert Douglas lived for some time. Alfred Brown carpenter lived there for awhile. Mr Field, a cooper also lived there, and it was from here his first wife died...brickmaker...known as Scotch John [Henderson] father of Mrs Field [her first marriage was to Robert Martin the Elder]. In the corner of the land now cultivated by Harry Fong there was a sawpit where old William Roberts used to cut timber for buildings. The land at that time was owned by old "Grandfather" Martin who married Miss Henderson. In later life Mrs Martin became Mrs Field - "Grannie Field" as she was always called...

From East Market Street down to the corner of West Market Street was vacant land. But on the corner of Lennox Street and West Market Street, only facing onto Lennox Street stood an old long house with no verandah owned by John Henderson. It was from here that "Granny Field" changed her name from Miss Henderson to Mrs Martin. The house where T Chalmers now lives was built to the order of Mr Martin, and it was here they lived when they were first married. I fancy the brickwork was put up by Caleb Crisford's father...

Windsor Richmond Gazette 9th April 1910

Windsor Street continued. On the same side near the lagoon, was a brick house of four rooms and a verandah with a kitchen at the back, where Jacob Innes lived. He was a farmer and had three sons, Jacob, Isaac and John and one daughter, Betsy. I went to school with them. Betsy was a fine working girl and I have heard them say she was a great reaper - girls thought nothing of work in those days - and could do her half acre a day. Mr Innes died there. After they left the place went to ruin and Mr Joseph Onus Sn had it pulled down. Another place was built and that too, has been pulled down a long time.

We will take the opposite side of this street and work from the Windsor end. There were no houses on this side till we come to the old brick place to where opposite to where Abe Eather lived. It was a big place with a verandah back and front, and a barn. It belonged to Robert Martin [the younger], Mrs William [Thomas] Price's father who lived there. He sold the

property to old Mr Fossett. Mr Fossett then had the barn built and he died there. I don't remember it getting built. Crawford Bedwell [who married Robert the elder's daughter by his second wife] lived there for a number of years and a large portion of his family. Afterwards old Mr and Mrs Field lived there. Here old Mr Field died [next McAlpine].

Windsor Richmond Gazette April 16, 1910  
[On Market Street] Where Mr Tom Chalmers lives I remember getting built, and the brickwork, was the first done in Richmond by the late Caleb Crisford.

East Market Street  
Commencing in Lennox Street end we have the old place where Granny Ashton lives which dates before anytime. When I first knew it there was only one room and in it Mr and Mrs Johnson lived. This would be 'Bill' Johnson's father and mother. Afterwards they went to Londonderry - Town's paddock in those days - where they lived for years.

After they left it was done up for the Presbyterian Church and services were held there for a long time. I have heard Dr Lang, Dr Fullerton - and the Rev Adam of Windsor preach there. The pulpit stood at the end of the room on Lennox Street side. As you went in at the door on the left side along the wall there was a long cedar seat with a back to it which was occupied by George Bowman and his family. William Bowman, his wife and daughter Ann (who married Mr Cadell) went there to worship also. On the opposite side of the room to Bowman's seat where William McAlpine and his father sat. On a cross front seat facing the pulpit sat Mrs Field's father, John Henderson. He too like McAlpine was a great singer and is big voice was always loud and clear during the singing. Mrs Martin had a Sunday School there, and taught a few children.

John Henderson, father of Margaret Henderson who married Robert Martin the Elder and later Stephen Fields, was born at Berrydale County of Caithness and arrived in the colony 10.10.1841. He died 11.10.1846 aged 81 years.

Various documents including wills give us some knowledge of the lands belonging to Robert Martin the Elder. His main farm was at Richmond and was known as *Martin's Farm*. The land was at Mulgrave Place and was rented

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for 3/- per year commencing after five years.  
The land was granted on 16.7.1804.

The other large family property was at Cobbora on land that may have initially been part of land where the Rouse family claimed. This land was granted to the Martin family in the 1830s.

#### **Will of Robert Martin, the Elder**

The will is handwritten and some parts are difficult to read. There are no paragraph breaks and often no full stops. For clarity I have put in some paragraphs and full stops. The will follow:

*This is the last will and testament of me, ROBERT MARTIN, the elder, of Richmond in the Colony of New South Wales.*

*I give my freehold estates, messuages, tenemented lands and hereditaments situate in the Colony of New South Wales aforesaid consisting of: in the County of ... in the colony aforesaid, containing by estimation one hundred acres more or less and which adjoins land now formally belonging to Pierce Collett with the rights members and appurtenances to the said parcel of land belonging.*

*Also all that parcel of land containing be estimation one thousand two hundred and eighty acres more or less situate in the County of Bligh in the occupation of my son Robert Martin with the rights members and appurtenances thereto belonging. [Cobbora]*

*Also that parcel of land commonly known as Martin Farm, containing by estimation one hundred acres more or less situated at Richmond aforesaid and now in the occupation of Thomas Simons and Thomas Eather and William Magic respectively with the rights, members and appurtenances thereto belonging.*

*Also all that parcel of land containing by estimation fifty acres more or less and situate at Richmond aforesaid adjoining the said parcel of land called Martin Farm and now in the occupation of James White with the rights members and appurtenances thereto belong.*

*Also all that parcel of land containing by estimation one acre more or less situate in March Street Richmond, the aforesaid purchased by me of Joseph Rendall with all the rights and appurtenances thereto belonging.*

*Also all that parcel of land containing by estimation one acre and three roods more or less situate in Lennox and March Streets Richmond aforesaid purchased by me from Thomas Weham with the rights and appurtenances as thereto belonging unto my wife Margaret for her life. And from and after her decease as to for and concerning that portion of my freehold messuages lands, tenements and hereditaments which consist of all that parcel of land situate at Mount York by the river Lett in the county of... and colony aforesaid containing by estimation one hundred acres more or less and which adjoins land now or formerly belonging to Pierce Collett with the rights members and appurtenances as thereto belonging.*

*I devise the same to my son Robert Martin in the fee simple and from and after the decease of my said wife as to for and concerning all that parcel of land containing one thousand two hundred [acres] the colony aforesaid originally granted to me by the Crown and now in the occupation of my said son.*

*Also all that parcel of land commonly known as Martin Farm containing by estimation one hundred acres more or less situate at Richmond aforesaid and now in the occupation of Thomas Simons and Thomas Eather and William Magic with the rights members and appurtenances to the lastly described parcels of land respectively belonging.*

*I devise the same to my son the said Robert Martin and his assigns for his life and after his decease to my Grandsons John Harden and William Martin the sons of my said son Robert Martin in equal shares for their respective lives. And as to the share of each of my said grandsons on his decease to such children of the same grandson living at his death and such issue then living of his children the male or males attain the age of twenty one years or being a female or females attain that age of marry in fee simple to take if more than one as tenants in common according to the stocks and not to the number of individuals. And if there be no such child or issue then to such persons, for such last will appoint and in default of such appointment to the other said of my said grandsons for the same states and with the same subsequent limitations as are thereinbefore expressed concerning the original share of either of my said grandsons dying leaving children of issue aforesaid. And to the entirety of hereinbefore expressed to my*

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grandson Robert Cooper Martin and his assigns for his life and on his decease to his children as tenants in common in fee simple with cross executory devises between them so that in the event of any of them dying under the age of twenty one years without leaving issue the same parcels of land lastly described to the others as tenants in common or the other of them in fee simple. And from and after the decease of my said wife. As to and fro concerning that other portion of freehold estates messuages lands tenements and hereditaments which consist of all land called Martin Farm and now in the occupation of James White with the rights members and appurtenances thereunto belonging.

I devise the same to my grandson the said Robert Cooper Martin and his assigns for his life. And on his decease to his children as tenants in common in fee simple with cross executory devises so that between them so that in the event of them all dying under the age of twenty-one years without leaving issue the same parcel of land may go to the others as tenants in common in fee simple. But in the event of them all dying unto my said grandson John Harden Martin and William Martin as tenants in common in the fee simple with cross executory devices between them of in the event of either of them dying under the age of twenty-one years without leaving issue the same parcel of land may go to the other of them in fee simple. And from the decease of my said wife, as to for and concerning the same and other portion of may said freehold parcel of land containing one acre more or less situate in March Street Richmond, with the aforesaid purchased by me off Joseph Kendall with the rights members and appurtenances thereto belonging.

I devise the same to my grand daughter, Caroline Martin, the daughter of the said Robert Martin and her assigns for life and on her decease to her children as tenants in common in fee simple with cross executory devises between them so that in the event of any of them dying under the age of twenty-one years without leaving issue the same parcel of land may go to the others as tenants in common in fee simple. But in the event of all of them dying to my grand daughter Martha Martin the daughter of my said son Robert Martin for her life. And in her decease to her children for the same estates and in the same order as the said parcel of land lastly described as limited to the children of the said Caroline Martin. And from and after the

decease of my said wife to for and concerning that other portion of my freehold estates messuages lands tenements and hereditaments which consist of all that parcel of land containing by estimation one acre and three roods more or less situated in Lennox Street and March Streets Richmond aforesaid purchased by me of Thomas Weyham with the rights members and appurtenances thereto belonging.

I devise the same to my grand daughter the said Martha Martin for her life. And after her decease to her children as tenants in common in fee simple with cross executory devises between them so that in the event of any of them dying under the age of twenty one years without leaving children the same parcel of land may go to the others as tenants in common or the other of them in fee simple. But in the event of them all dying to my said daughter Caroline Price for her life. And after her decease to her children for the same estates and in the same order as the said parcel of land lastly described as limited to the children of the said Martha Martin.

I devise all that parcel of land containing by estimation two roods and thirty four perches more or less in Richmond Street aforesaid purchased by me from William Harrington in the occupation of...

Also all that parcel of land situate in Lennox Street Richmond aforesaid lately purchased by me from ...Kennedy and now in the occupation of John Long with the respective members and appurtenances to the said two lastly described parcels of land belonging respectively unto my wife Margaret in fee simple. And I declare that every estate for life herein before limited to be unimpeachable waste. And I interpose after every such estate for life or the remainder immediately expectant thereon to my trustees hereinafter named for the life of the tenant of that estate upon trust to preserve the contingent... to the issue of such children but to permit such tenant to acquire the [word may be Land?]

I empower and direct my said Trustees during the minorities of minority of each or any infant devisee under this my will to let from year to year or for any term not exceeding three years in possession at the best rent and to manage the lands and hereditaments devised to them respectively or adequate parts thereof respectively in and towards the maintenance and

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education of such infant devised and to invest the unapplied surplus if any in the purchase of stock or shares in any of the banking companies carried on in New South Wales aforesaid and improve the same as an accumulating fund varying the investment from time to time for any other of the kinds aforesaid as often as may be thought proper but with liberty to apply the income and if deemed necessary the capital also for the same fund for the maintenance of advancement in life of such devisee and on such devisee attaining the age of twenty-one years the same fund or so much thereof as shall remain unapplied to the purpose aforesaid shall be payable to and be the absolute property of the said devisee.

I devise unto and to the use of my said trustees all the real estate of which I am or may be at the time of my decease be trustee to be disposed of according to the real trusts upon which I hold the same. And also all the real estate of which I am or may be Mortgagee to be disposed of (but subject to the equities of redemption subsisting therein) according to the disposition hereinafter made of my personal estate in favour of my said wife.

I bequeath all the personal estate which shall belong to me at my decease (after payment of all my debts, funeral and testamentary expenses and the expense and expenses proving my will or any codicil thereto) unto my said wife Margaret Martin for her absolute benefit.

I declare that if my said trustees or any of them or any trustee to be appointed under this provision shall die or become unwilling or unable to act as trustees or trustee of my will it shall be lawful for the declining to act or if not use for the executors or administrators of any deceased trustee to appoint any fit person to be trustees dying or becoming unwilling or unable to act.

And I declare that the trustees or trustee for the time being for my will shall be competent to exercise all the powers and discretions hereby confided to the trustees herein named.

And I exempt every trustee of my will from liability for losing occurring without his own willful default and authorize him to retain and allow to his co-trusteeship all expenses incidental to the trusteeship.

I appoint my friends, William Bowman of Richmond aforesaid Esquire and the Rev Matthew Adam of Windsor Presbyterian Minister to be Trustees of my will.

And I appoint my said wife Margaret, she continuing to be my widow and the said trustees to be executrix and executors of my will with power to compound debts and settle claims against or in favor of my estate.

Lastly I revoke all former wills.

In witness whereof I have hereunder set my hand, and I have set my hand to each of the four preceding pages of this my will this thirteenth day of June one thousand eight hundred and forty three.

Signed the mark of Robert Martin the Elder.  
Signed by the said Robert Martin the Elder the said Testator as his last will and testament in the presence of us present at the same time who at his request and in the presence of each other have subscribed our names at witnesses.

BEDDEK Solicitor Windsor  
D LAWSON His Clerk.

THOMAS ASHTON, Richmond

Probate to the will was granted to Margaret Martin and Matthew Adam the executrix and one of Executors (William Bowman and the other executor renounced) on 25<sup>th</sup> November 1846. The Testator died on 13<sup>th</sup> June 1846.

This will was written before the birth of Johanna Henderson Martin who was around one month of age when her father Robert Martin the Elder died.

Alston Page Price, descendent of William Thomas and Caroline (nee Martin) Price has in his possession a number of family documents and photographs that include a document

#### ABSTRACT OF TITLE

William Robert Price of Richmond, Blacksmith, Mary Collins, wife of Daniel Collins of Mulgoa Public School, Teacher, John Forbes of Dubbo, stonemason, James Price of Newtown, Government Employee, Louis Marshall Price of Blaney Public School, Teacher, Rowland Alexander Price of Kurrajong Public School, Teacher, Eliza Sullivan wife of William Sullivan

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*of West Maitland, storekeeper's assistant, Arthur Price of Newtown, Railway Employee; Alice Ann Price of Newtown, spinster, to land and hereditaments at Richmond in the Colony of New South Wales*

*1837 November 17<sup>th</sup> by deed poll or Grant from the Crown – the hand of Richard Bourke, Esquire, Governor of the Colony of New South Wales and the office seal thereof.  
The Said Governor.*

*Granted unto Robert Martin the Elder of Richmond his heirs and assus all that parcel of land containing by and measuring 10 acres and 10 perches more or less situated by and being in the town of Richmond Parish of Ham Common County of Cumberland bounded on line by a line dividing it from march Street bearing West 19 degrees North 2 chains and 79 links North West by a line dividing it from West Market Street bearing South 20 and half degrees West 3 chains 81 links on the South West side by a line East at 19 degrees South 2 chains and 85 links and on the other side by a line North 21 degrees East by 3 chains and 74 links being granted in accordance with the report on memorial No 626 made on the second day of May 1837 by the Commissioner Appointed under the Act of the Colonial Legislature will 4 No 9 with appurts there to be.*

*To hold unto the said Robert Martin, his heirs and assus for ever. Imp Rent of Two pounds sixteen shillings and eight pence payable from the 1<sup>st</sup> day of July 1836 until 30<sup>th</sup> June 1847 both inclusive and from thenceforth the sum of one pound eight shillings and four pence yearly forever. Covenants usual in Town Grants Proviso that grant should be void for non payment of fees and for quick employment and for re-entry for non payment of Imp rent for 20 days.*

*Signed by the said Governor and attested Duly Registered - Colonial Secretaries Office  
On 18<sup>th</sup> December 1837  
Register of Town Grants No 36 (Vol or p) 431*

*Duly enrolled in the Supreme Court in 4 Grants A No 1 page 235 19 April 1838.*

*1843 June 30<sup>th</sup> By his will the said Robert Martin the Elder devised All his freehold Estates, messuages tenemented lands, hereditaments in the Colony of NSW unto his wife Margaret*

*Martin for her life. And from and after the decease of the Testator said Wife as and concerning the position of Testator said freehold Estates, Messuages, tenements and hereditaments consisting of*

*All that parcel of land consisting by estimation one acre more or less situate in March Street Richmond aforesaid purchased by the said Testator from Joseph Kendall with rights and members and apperts thereto belonging.*

*Testator  
Devised the same unto his Grand Daughter Caroline Martin and her assigns for her life and after her decease to her children as tenants in common in fee simple with cross executory decisions between so that in the event of their dying under the age of 21 years without leaving issue the same parcel of land may go to the others as tenants in common in fee simple.*

*Signed by the said testator and duly attested...*

*1847 April 17<sup>th</sup> by indenture made between the said Margaret Martin widow of the said Robert Martin the Elder of one part and William Thomas Price and Caroline his wife, formerly Caroline Martin, granddaughter of the said Robert Martin on the other part.*

*Reciting the ...abstracted will of the said Robert Martin the Elder and reciting that by deed poll or instrument in writing dated the 26<sup>th</sup> day of March There last past the hand of Lewis Duncan Whittaker and Lavan White abstractions named in a certain deed of submission dated 23<sup>rd</sup> day of said Month of March made between the said Rev Matthew Adam and the said Margaret Martin the Executor and Executrix of the will of the said Robert Martin the Elder deceased of the first part of the said Margaret Martin and the second part the said Robert Martin through deceased as the eldest son and heir at law of the said Robert Martin the Elder deceased of the third part whereon certain disputes between the said Margaret Martin respecting the said will and devises and requests made thereby in favor of the said Margaret Martin and the Martin in difference between them were referred... the said Lewis Duncan Whittaker and Lavan White did amongst others ...one [?] and adjudy and direct that the said Robert Martin partly to the said deed submission should admit the vacate the said will of the said Robert Martin deceased and that within a time in this said recited deed poll*

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prescribed he should execute in due form of a law a deed confirming and stabilizing the said will in all respects and particularly the devises and bequests thereof made to the said tr...g and in consideration of such admission of the validity of the said will and the deed of confirmation hereof and of the Release of the said Robert Martin of all claims against the executors of the said Margaret Martin should amongst other things release or surrender unto the said Caroline Price the use of ... her the said Margaret Martin devisable [?] under the will of the said Robert Martin deceased in the piece or parcel of land mentioned to be devised to the said Caroline Price after the decease of the said Margaret Martin with remainder over and reciting that by ... of Confirmation and Release dated 3<sup>rd</sup> day of April 1857 made between the said Robert Martin partly to therebefore in part recited deed in submission and the said Margaret Martin and the said Robert Martin in compliance with the said therebefore recited deed poll ratified comprised and established the same recited will of the said Robert Martin in compliance with the said Robert Martin the Elder deceased in all respects and in favor of the aid of Margaret Martin and also release and assure unto the same Margaret Martin the land and hereto devised token by the said recited will and in all other respects compiled with the term of the same therebefore recited deed poll. It is witnessed that in part compliance with and for carrying out the terms of the award of Lewis Duncan Whittaker and Lavan White contended in the said therebefore recited deed poll in reference for the said Caroline Price and in consideration of the sum of 10/- to her the said Margaret Martin paid by the said William Thomas Price the receipt acknowledged the same Margaret Martin did grant bargain sell release and confirm up to the said William Thomas Price his heirs all that piece or parcel of land particularly described and comprised in the before abstract indenture and will.

Together with the right to all the establishment and to hold the said piece or parcel of land and hereditaments with the appurtenances unto and to the use of the said William Thomas Price his heirs and assigns... the term of the natural life of the said Margaret Martin upon trust to convey and dispose of the same in such manner to such person or and in such manner during the life of the said Margaret Martin as the said Caroline Price should direct and default of such direction to stand possessed of the said deeds.

Upon the trust that during the life of the said Margaret Martin on for the separate use and benefit of the said Caroline Price and her assigns during her life of the said Margaret Martin for the executors administrators and assigns of the said Caroline Price Covenants by the said Margaret Martin for further assurances.

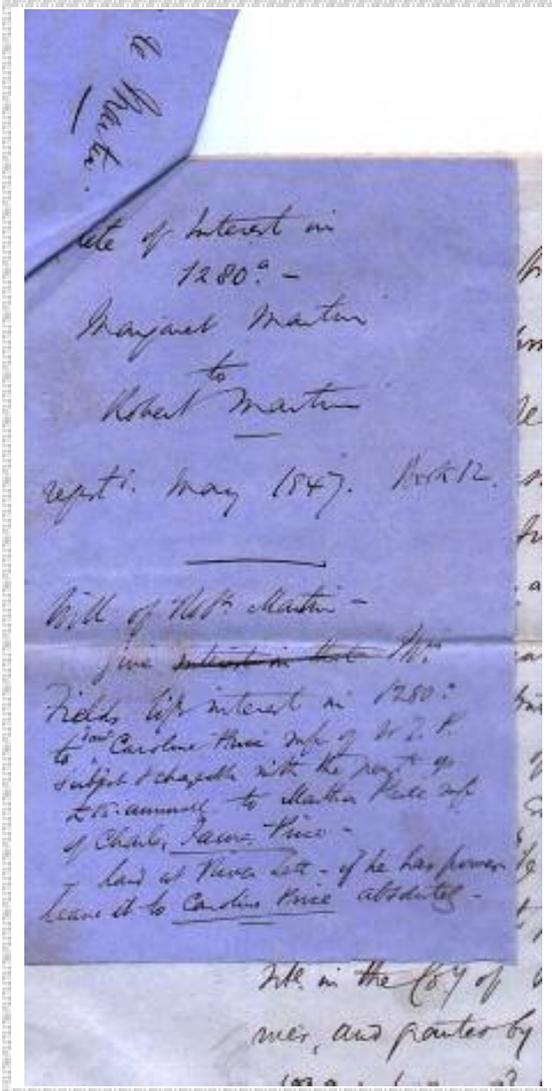
Duly executed and attested  
Registered 8<sup>th</sup> May 1847 No 672 Book.

1878 December 3 the said Caroline Price died leaving her surviving nine children no more namely the said Robert William Price, Mary Collins, John Price, James Price, Lewis Marshall Price, Emma Eliza Sullivan, Rowland Alexander Price, Arthur Price, Alice Ann Price, the other children having died in infancy. No issue. The said Alice Ann Price, the youngest of the children of the said Caroline Price attained the age of 21 years this date.

Some documents that came into my possession (27.8.1989) probably came from the estate of Margaret Martin or her descendents and assist in the telling of the tale. Margaret Martin remarried on 3<sup>rd</sup> January 1848 to widower, Stephen Field – that is several months after the document transcribed in the following paragraphs. The witnesses to the marriage were WH Brett and Robert Dick. The minister was Rev Matthew Adams.

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Dated 5<sup>th</sup> April 1847  
Mrs Margaret Martin  
To

Mr Robert Martin  
(Extract)

Conveyance of Margaret Martin's life interest  
In 1820 at Cobborah

Date 5<sup>th</sup> April 1847.

Between Margaret Martin of Richmond, widow and relict of Robert Martin the Elder formerly of Richmond aforesaid farmer, deceased of the one part and Robert Martin late of Richmond aforesaid but now of Cobborah Farmer and

Grazier Eldest son and heir of the said Robert Martin Elder of the other part---

All that piece of parcel of land in the Furlong of New South Wales aforesaid containing by admeasurement one thousand two hundred and eighty acres to the same more or less situated in the County unnamed and Parish unnamed at Cobborah commencing on the Talbragar River on the North East Corner and bounded on the East by a line south one hundred and seventy seven chains on the south a line West eighty chains. On the West by a line North to the Talbragar River ninety seven chains on the north by that river to the North East Corner aforesaid which said piece of parcel of land was granted from the Crown by grant dated the thirtieth day of September one thousand eight hundred and thirty nine under the hand of his Excellency Governor Sir George Gipps Knight, and the seal of the Territory aforesaid unto the said Robert Martin the Elder deceased ...

To have and to Hold unto and to the use of the said Robert Martin party hereto his heirs and assigns during term of the natural life of said Margaret Martin.

The full release was dated 5<sup>th</sup> day of July 1847  
Mrs Margaret Martin to Mr Robert Martin.  
Release In pencil is written WT Price.

KNOW ALL MEN by these present that I MARGARET MARTIN of Richmond in the County of Cumberland in the Colony of New South Wales Widow and Relict of Robert Martin the Elder late of Richmond claim unto ROBERT MARTIN formerly of Richmond aforesaid but now of Cobborah in the County of Bligh in the Colony aforesaid Farmer and Grazier his Heirs Executors and Administrators All actions cause and causes of Action Judgments suits controversies trespassers debts duties damages accounts reckonings claims and demands whatsoever from the beginning of the world to the Fifth day of April One thousand eight hundred and Forty seven SAVE AND EXCEPT my rights and claim to certain Horned Cattle consisting of three hundred head my property and directed to be delivered over to me or to my order by the said Robert Martin on or before the Thirtieth day of September One thousand eight hundred and Forty seven in and by a ... certain Award made the twenty sixth day of March last past under the hands and seals of Lewis Duncan Whitaker of Richmond aforesaid Esquire and Lavan White of Windsor in the Colony aforesaid wine and spirit merchant in a reference to the said Robert Martin party hereto.

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### ROBERT & MARY (nee Cooper) MARTIN the Elder and his second wife, Margaret (nee Henderson).

And also save and except a certain Promissory note for the sum of Twenty Five pounds dated the twenty third day of June One thousand eight hundred and Forty six made by the said Robert Martin in favor of the said Margaret Martin and payable three months after date and which is mentioned in the said recited Award to be excepted from the Release therein directed to be given by the said Margaret Martin to the said Robert Martin party hereto. And also save and except a certain promissory note for the sum of Five pounds twelve shillings sterling dated the [?] said Fifth day of April made by the said Robert Martin in favor of the said Margaret Martin and payable on demand IN WITNESS whereof I the said Margaret Martin have hereunto set my hand and seal the Fifth day of July one thousand eight hundred and forty seven.

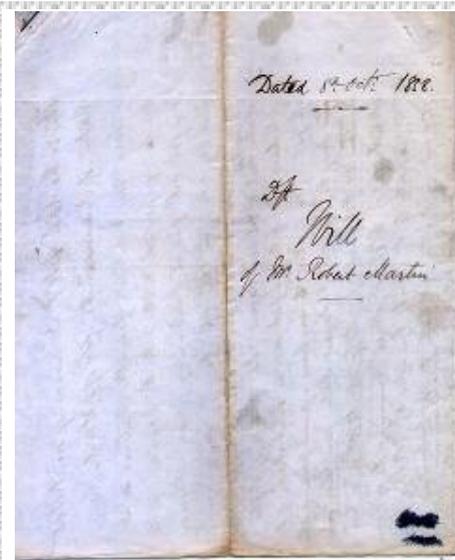
Signed Sealed and Delivered by the said Margaret Martin in the presence of B Beddoek Sol Windsor... Wm Walker his clerk. The document was signed by Margaret Martin.

In the margin of the document written is the following:

13<sup>th</sup> March 1848 I Stephen Field the husband of the said Margaret Martin acknowledge to have received from the said Robert Martin a Promissory note in my...in order for One hundred and five pounds 12/6d payable six months after date in...of the excepted claims mentioned in this release. Dated 13<sup>th</sup> March 1848.

It was signed Stephen Field and witnesses B Beddoek [or Beddek] Wm Walker his clerk.

This document along with others I bought from a dealer in old documents – they were missing their seals which are probably collectable items.



One of the documents is a draft will of Robert Martin dated 8<sup>th</sup> October 1858 – the front page of which is shown in the above photograph. It is on a light blue paper. Pinned to the will are two sheets of blue paper on which the following is hand written:

In be...instructions  
Re Martin and Price  
Conveyance to WT Price in trust for Mrs Price of River Lett property.  
Lease John Harden Martin to Wm Martin his unexpired term of 40 acres portion of 1200 acres at Cobborah – of wh: 40 a 10m acre fence to and known as Knife's Paddock.

Will 1280 a as before devised

[Second page]  
Rite of interest in 1280 acres Margaret Martin to Robert Martin  
Reft to May 1847 Book 12  
Will of Robert Martin  
Five interest in that [crossed out] Mrs Field's life interest in 1280 acres to Caroline Price wife of WT Price subject to changes with the parties 15 pounds annually to Martha Price wife of Charles James Price.

Land at River Lett if he has power to leave it to Caroline Price absolutely.

Remainder after paying debts to Mrs Caroline Price.

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Then followed the draft of the will. Some sections were crossed out.

*This is the last will and Testament of me Robert Martin of Richmond in the Colony of NS Wales, grazier, I change my real Estate hereinafter Mentioned in and of my personal Estate with the payment of all my just debts funeral and testamentary expenses. Whereas under and by nature of a certain Indre dated 5<sup>th</sup> day of April 1847 made between one Margaret Martin then widow of my father Robert Martin the Elder but now Margaret Field the wife of Stephen Field of Richmond aps of the one part and me Robert Martin of the other part I am entitled [crossed out and to and have plural power of appointed over] during the natural life of Margaret Martin now Field [crossed out to ? a certain] All that parcel of land com... by Est 1280 acres in less Nte in the Coy of Bligh at Cobborah Commencing on the Talbragar river and pointed by the Comm by Deed dated the 30<sup>th</sup> day Sep 1839 to my father Robert Martin the Elder his heirs and assigns forever. Now (in exercise of this power of ever other power hereunder enabling one) I hereby (appoint and also) assign and devise the said parcel of land and deeds during the life of this Margaret (Martin now) Fields, with the payment by these Caroline Price the wife of William Thomas Price of Richmond ap (undertaker) stonecutter (her heirs and assigns, plus other similar statements crossed out) (absolutely) subject nevertheless to and changed and changeable (with the part thereof) during the life of the said Margaret Field, with payment by these Caroline Price (or her) her ... and assigns unto Martha Price wife of Charles James Price [space left] solely separately and her assigns of the yearly rents charge or amounts of 15 pounds to be payable half yearly without any debts (out) of the party price yearly rent change (of 15 pounds) to be made at the end of 6 calendar months computes from my decease. And I empower the said Martha (Caroline) Price (told separately) by distress and also by entry upon and perception of rents and profits of these herds during the life of these Margaret Field as ap to recover payment of these rents charge when in arrear for 30 days. (And whereas) under the will of myself and father dated 13<sup>th</sup> day of June 1843 I am entitled at the decease of Margaret Field to be the aeversim[?] and inheritance in fee simple of a... all that parcel of land situate at Mount York by the River Lett in the County of ... and colony...county of ertim [?] 100 acres m a left and which adjoins land now a*

*formerly belonging to Pierce Collett with the eight members and appoints ... to belonging. Now I devise the same 100 a at the decease of this Margaret Field unto the use of myself daughter Caroline Price (absolutely) And I bequeath all (the rest re...as, u persp: [difficult to read]) and I devise the rent of any of the real estate whatsoever much may [more crossed out] belonging to me at my decease to my eldest daughter Caroline Price; absolutely; but subject as to property vested in me as mortgagee or mortgagee to the ...affecting the ... respectively.*

*I appoint my son in law William Thomas Price of Richmond Stonecutter and Caleb Crisford of the same place, Builder to be the Executors of this my will and lastly I revoke all former wills. In witness here... I have hereunder set my hand the 8<sup>th</sup> day of October in the year 1858. Signed by the testator as his last will and testimony in the presence of us... at the same time and at the same time and now at his request in his presence and in the presence of each other have now... witnesses.*

Also with this document was a handwritten letter – shown below.



The letter reads:  
Richmond Sept 21 1858

Respected Sir,

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### ROBERT & MARY (nee Cooper) MARTIN the Elder and his second wife, Margaret (nee Henderson).

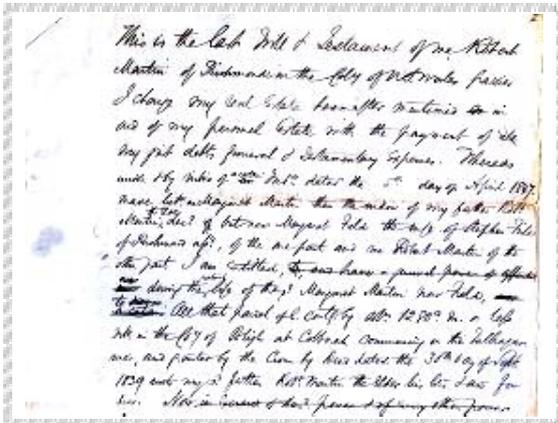
In answer to your's of this Morning I beg to inform you Mr Martin appoints myself as one –  
Mr Crisford

Viz  
Stonecutter ) William Thomas Price  
                  ) Of March Street Richmond  
Builder       ) Caleb Crisford  
                  ) Of March Street Richmond

Yours Truly  
Wm T Price

To Wm Walker Esq  
Solicitor

Below is a portion of the draft will or Robert Martin.



Another document in the collection:

Dated 9<sup>th</sup> day of May 1856  
MR ROBERT MARTIN  
TO MR JOHN HARDEN MARTIN  
Counterpart  
LEASE  
Of Cobra for 15 years  
Walker Windsor

*THIS INDENTURE made the ninth day of May one thousand eight hundred and fifty six BETWEEN ROBERT MARTIN of Cobra in the County of Bligh in the Colony of New South Wales Grazier of the one part and JOHN HARDEN MARTIN of the same place Grazier of the other part. WITNESSETH that in consideration of the rent and covenants hereinafter reserved and contained on the part of the said John Harden Martin his executors administrators and assigns to be paid and performed the said Robert Martin doth hereby grant demise and lease unto the said John Harden Martin ALL THAT parcel of land*

*containing by admeasurement one thousand two hundred and eighty acres more or less situated in the County unnamed (since Bligh) at Cobborah commencing on Talbragar River and the North east corner 2<sup>nd</sup> bounded on the East by a line south one hundred and seventy seven chains on the south by a line west eighty chains on the west by a line a line North to the Talbragar River ninety seven chains and on the North by that River to the North East corner aforesaid being the land granted by the crown to Robert Martin the elder now deceased father of the said Robert Martin party hereto by Deed dated the thirtieth day of September one thousand eight hundred and thirty nine:*

*TOGETHER with the dwelling house and all building rights members and appurtenances to the said demised land belonging BUT SUBECT to the liberties privileges reservations provisions and exceptions hereinafter contained, that is to say EXCEPT NEVERTHELESS and always reserved unto the said Robert Martin and his assigns and free ingress egress and regress to from and staying at the said two rooms and three acres of land respectively; AND PROVIDED also that the said Robert Martin shall be at liberty to run and graze free of any charge but at his own risk such cattle as he shall think proper upon the grazing land of the said demised promises TO HAVE and TO HOLD the said demised land and premises hereby granted and demised with the appurtenances (but with such exception reservation and provision aforesaid) unto the said John Harden Martin his executors administrators and assigns from the first day of January last for and during the term of fifteen years thenceforth next ensuing and fully to be complete and ended if the said Robert Martin or his assigns the rent or sum of FIFTY POUNDS Sterling free from all rates and taxes and deductions whatsoever, by equal half yearly payments in every year (that is to say) on the thirtieth day of June and the thirty-first day of December in every year, and the first payment to be made on the first day of July next if the said Robert Martin shall be then living and the said term of fifteen years shall then otherwise be then subsisting and under determined. AND the said John Harden Martin for himself his heirs, executors, administrators and assigns hereby covenants and agrees with the said Robert Martin his executors administrators or assigns in manner following that is to say that the said John Harden Martin assigns the said rent hereinbefore reserved at the times and in manner aforesaid without any deduction or abatement*

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whatsoever AND also all rates taxes assessments which may be imposed upon the said demised premises or upon the rent thereof and also will keep the said demised premises promises and all fences buildings and erections thereon in as good a state of repair as the same are now in (reasonable wear and tear and accidents by fire storm or tempest not occasioned by the willful default or neglect of the said John Harden Martin or his representatives only accepted) will peaceably deliver up possession of the said demised premises unto the said Robert Martin or his assigns AND THAT the said Robert Martin or his assigns or his or their agents shall be at liberty during the said term with or without surveyors or others twice in every year at seasonable times to enter upon the said demised premises to examine the state and condition thereof PROVIDED that if the rent hereinbefore reserved or any part thereof shall be in arrears and unpaid by the space of twenty one days whereon the same ought to be paid as aforesaid (although no formal...demand shall have been made thereof) or upon breach of any other of the foregoing covenants with the said John Harden Martin for himself his heirs executors administrators and assigns hereby covenants with the said John Harden Martin his executors administrators and assigns or any person claiming though or under him or them. IN WITNESS whereof the parties aforesaid to these present have hereunto set their hands and seals the day and year first before written.

SIGNED SEALD AND DELIVERED by the said parties in the presence of John Walker [Robert Martin signed first and then John Harden Martin.]

Copy received into the office for the Registration of Deeds at Sydney this twenty first day of May 1856 20 minutes past two o'clock in the afternoon from John Russell Jones of Sydney a certified copy of the foregoing Indentured Lease by Robert Martin to John Harden Martin verified by John Alexander Walker of Windsor and numbered 359 Book 43 Signed Alfred Elyard... Chief Clerk of the Supreme Court and Registrar of Deeds.



Above: Thought to be Robert Martin Jr

Dated 30<sup>th</sup> Day of October 1858  
Mr John H Martin  
To  
Mr William Martin  
UNDER LEASE  
Of 400 of Cobra Estate

THIS INDENTURE made the thirtieth day of October one thousand eight hundred and fifty eight BETWEEN JOHN HARDEN MARTIN of Cobra in the County of Bligh in Cobra aforesaid Grazier of the one part and WILLIAM MARTIN of Cobra aforesaid Grazier of the other part. WHEREAS by indenture bearing the date the ninth day of May one thousand eight hundred and fifty six made between one Robert Martin on the one part and the said John Harden Martin of the other part a parcel of land containing by admeasurements One thousand two hundred and eighty acres more or less situated in the County of Bligh at Cobra aforesaid commencing on the Talbragar River and originally granted by the Crown to the father of the said Robert Martin (now deceased) was dem... (except as to three acres thereof) unto the said John Harden Martin his executors administrators and assigns from the first day of January one thousand eight hundred and fifty six for the term of fifteen years thence next ensuing provided the said Robert Martin should so long live AND WHEREAS the said John Harden Martin for the considerations hereinafter mentioned of the said hereditaments as one hereinafter mentioned of the said hereditaments as one hereinafter described and in the manner hereinafter contained. NOW THIS INDENTURE WITNESSETH that in consideration of the love and affection which the

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said John Harden Martin hath and beareth towards his brother the said William martin and also of Ten Shillings to him now paid by the said William Martin the receipt whereof is hereby acknowledged, He the said John Harden Martin doth hereby demise and un... to the said William Martin his executors administrators and assigns ALL THOSE FORTY ACRES of land more or less being portion of and situate about the North East end of the said one thousand two hundred and eighty acres and of which Ten acres are fenced in and known as Knife's [or Knipes'] Paddock and which also take in the site of the old Cobborah Stock Yard and are bounded on the north by the Talbragar River about twenty chains and on other three sides by lines of twenty chains each (excepting thereunto the road passing there through leaving from Guntawong to Mendooran) WITH ALL rights members and appurtenances etc.

The document was signed by John Harden Martin in the presence of John Moore and also by William Martin.

On 28<sup>th</sup> Day of September 1871 the land originally granted to Robert Martin the Elder at Cobbora was leased for a period of 21 years to James Richards

*BUT SUBJECT NEVERTHELESS to the exceptions reservations liberties privileges and provisions hereinafter contained that is to say FIRSTLY Except and always reserved from the lease hereby made ALL THAT parcel of land containing FIFTY ACRES...commencing at the Cobborah Water Hole...which fifty acres were conveyed by the said Robert Martin and wife to John Blakemore by and Indenture dated the eighteenth of November one thousand eight hundred and fifty three SECONDLY Except and reserved from the lease hereby made ALL THAT parcel of land containing by estimation TWENTY ACRES...at present in the occupation of John Knife and assured to him by Robert Martin AND THIRDLY except and always reserved from the lease hereby made ALL THOSE FORTY ACRES of land...leased by the said Robert Martin to one William Martin for the remainder of the life of the said Robert Martin .....*

This lease to James Richard is recorded 437 Book 127.

A copy of the last will and testament of Robert Martin follows – No 9767 Series 1

*This is the last will and testament of me Robert Martin of Cobbora in the County of Bligh and Colony of New South Wales, Farmer.*

*First I direct all my just debts and funeral and testimony expenses be paid and satisfied.*

*I give and bequeath unto my wife Mary Martin <sup>1</sup> all my real and personal estate of whatever nature of kind soever and wheresover situate.*

*To hold the same unto my said wife has [?] Executors and administrators according to the respective nature of such estate to and for her own use and benefit.*

*I hereby nominate constitute and appoint my said wife, Mary Martin to be the sole executor of this my will, hereby revoking all wills by me at any time heretofore made and declaring this only to be my last will and testament. I have hereunto set my hand this thirty first day of August one thousand eight hundred and sixty six.*

Robert Martin signed the will, which was also witnessed, but the signatures are not readable. Robert Martin Jr died 11.9.1872. He is buried with his first wife, Mary Elizabeth nee Merrick.

William Martin died 4.5.1871 at Guntawong. At the time of death which was from diphtheria for six months he was Post Master. The person who gave the details of his parents etc was his brother-in-law LE Tuckerman. In 1859 William married Mary Ann Naughton. There were no children of the marriage. In his will written 31.10.1867 his occupation was that of publican and he left all his possessions to his wife. Goods were sworn at 300 pounds. *Around the Black Stump, A History of the Coolah – Dunedoo – Mendooran areas* Researched by Roy Cameron and edited by Kathielyn Job is a well researched book that too refers to the Martin family in the area. Chapter 8 entitled *Cobbora* is notes the links of the Martin family with the district.

#### EARLY SELECTIONS

<sup>1</sup> This lady was Robert Martin Jr's second wife – Mary Oliver Perry. The couple married in 1860 and 11.8.1874 she died aged 64 years. She is buried at St Peter's Cemetery Richmond. There were no children from this marriage.

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*The Rouse brothers, John, Richard and Edwin were probably grazing stock in the Cobbora district in the early 1820s. They had taken up Guntawong Run on the Cudgegong near Gulgong near Gulgong and the 'Mundooran' run on the Castlereigh near Mendooran. Their father Richard Rouse had come to the Colony in 1801 with a chest or two of tea which he sold for a good price...*

*The first person interested in acquiring freehold land at Cobbera was Robert Martin. He received authority on 16<sup>th</sup> June 1830 to take possession of 1280 acres on the Talbruarang River (Talbragar). However a blunder was made in the Surveyor General's Office as part of this land, later to become known as Tongay (Tongy) was already included in the 6000 acres in the possession of Richard Fitzgerald. As a consequence the Governor sanctioned another selection providing it was made within four months. Martin chose 1280 acres at Cobrow (Cobbora) on the southern side of the Talbragar about 9 miles downstream from Lowe's Station, Bolaro, near Dunedoo. A later survey increased the area to 1368 acres. 'Cobra comes from the Aboriginal 'Koburra' which means 'head' or 'skull'. The later spelling 'Cobbora' was Aboriginal for 'tread'. For many years the spelling of 'Cobborah' included the 'h'. The Geographical Names Board of NSW in the Government Gazette of 27<sup>th</sup> August 1976 officially adopted the spelling of 'Cobbora'.*

*A selection was occupied by Richard Rouse, but unlike 'Tongay' it had not been allocated. Richard Rouse later acquired freehold of the 640 acres on the western boundary of Martin's selection and many years later George Rouse purchased Martin's property...*

*The first map that used the name 'Cobborah' was prepared by Assistant Surveyor Lewis in 1832 when he surveyed the Talbragar River from Merutherer (Merotherie) to Cobborah on the map. The word 'Cobbora' on the map is close to the Talbragar, near where Martin had his homestead and 'Martin's Inn' was later constructed.<sup>2</sup>*

*Cobbora has often been referred to as 'Martin' Town' because of the number of people there bearing the Martin name. When Mrs (Mary) [sic*

*Martha] Robert Cooper Martin died on 7<sup>th</sup> September 1913 aged 84 years she left 41 grandchildren and 42 great grandchildren...*

*This book is also most informative about the history of the area that includes other family lines and the clashes between the Aboriginal people and the invading settlers.*

*A section on Hoteliers notes that *Martin's Inn, Traveller's Rest* was situated on the western side of the township and operated as a Post Office in 1866. It was probably built around 1850 and was run by William Martin 1861-1866.*

*Cobbora was also an early and important staging post junction. From Cobbora it was possible to travel regularly by coach to and from Mendooran and Coonabarabran; Merriwa and Muswellbrook; and Gulgong and Mudgee.*

*William Martin and Thomas New had a meeting with bushrangers in 1862 on their way from Guntawong to Sheridan's Inn. The details of the incident are well recorded in Mr Cameron's book along with many others – an important read for those interested in the history of the Cobbora area.*



Caroline Ann Martin, daughter of Robert Cooper Martin and his wife Martha nee Price.

<sup>2</sup> Run by William Martin, son of Robert Martin Jr and Mary Elizabeth nee Merrick.