

JOSEPH HEWITT

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WESTERN CONNECTION NO. 56 - MARCH 2000

IN OUR LAST ISSUE WE GAVE AN ACCOUNT OF THE DEATH AND BURIAL OF MR. JOSEPH HEWITT OF NEWTOWN.

WE HAVE SINCE BEEN SUPPLIED WITH A FEW INCIDENTS OF THE LATE GENTLEMAN'S LIFE.

HE WAS A NATIVE OF THE NORTH OF IRELAND HAVING BEEN BORN AT SEGOE NEAR LURGAN IN THE COUNTY OF ARMARGH IN THE YEAR 1812 BEING THEN 19 HE ENLISTED IN HIS MAJESTY'S 28TH REGIMENT AT NEWRY COUNTY DOWN IN WHICH HE SERVED FOR A PERIOD OF 19 YEARS AND 254 DAYS.


IN 1832 HE WAS REMOVED TO DUBLIN IN 1833 TO CORK. THEN IN 1834 TO LIVERPOOL AND IN 1835 TO CHATHAM.


IN 1836 HE ARRIVED WITH HIS REGIMENT IN SYDNEY.

FROM SYDNEY HIS REGIMENT WAS ORDERED TO THE CRIMEA AND MR. HEWITT WENT THROUGH THAT CAMPAIGN AFTERWARDS RETURNING TO SYDNEY WHEN HE WAS TRANSFERRED TO THE MOUNTED CONSTABULARY AND HAD MANY EXPERIENCES IN THE BUSH WITH THE NOTABLE BUSHRANGERS OF THAT PERIOD.

AT ONE TIME HE WAS RECOMMENDED BY A JUDGE OF THE SUPREME COURT FOR A REWARD OF 100 POUNDS FOR HIS SERVICES IN CONNECTION WITH THE ARREST OF CERTAIN BUSHRANGERS.

MR HEWITT BORE TILL HIS DEATH THE MARKS OF A CHARGE WHICH WAS FIRED AT HIM POINT BLANK RANGE WHILE DEFENDING THE SYDNEY MAIL FROM AN ATTACK BY A NOTORIOUS BUSHRANGER JOHN SMITH WHO WAS AFTERWARDS EXECUTED IN SYDNEY.

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