

Esther Aiken (buried here aged 93 in 1911) was a daughter of ex-slave, but freeman, John Aiken from Barbados. He married Frances Randall whose father was John Randall, an ex-slave from Connecticut who was in the English military in the War of Independence but was transported on the First Fleet for stealing a pocket watch. His neighbour in Sydney, also a convict and ex-slave, John Martin, was appointed a district constable and married another daughter, Mary Randall. The Martins came to Turon Goldfields in 1857 after their daughter, Hannah Martin married a convict, Peter Coups. Hannah Coups (Martin) died here in 1877 and their children Elizabeth White (Aiken) and Robert and Rodina Coups are also buried in this cemetery.



Meeting of the Orange Lodge at the Wattle Flat Church of England c1902 (Source: Ted Reilly)



Elizabeth White (far left) and Peter Coups (middle right) were descendants of African slaves from the Americas transported to Australia in the First and Second Fleets. Their ancestors were John Randall, who was a former soldier in the British Army (second left) and John Aiken and John Martin and they were some of the African American convicts in the First and Second Fleets (far right, a painting of African convict William Blue, NSW State Library).

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