

tle else is known. The wedding was celebrated by Benedictine Father Charles Sumner at the Roman Catholic Church at nearby Appin. The marriage produced one son, apparently named John, who disappears from the historical record, as does Antonis' wife. Recorded by a neighbour who signed Antonis' death certificate, John was supposed to have reached the age of 36 but was 'supposed to be dead' by the time his father passed away¹⁰.

By the time Antonis elected to become a naturalised British citizen at Camden in 1854, he was a local identity. Naturalisation was considered an essential step in securing legal title over a small block of land he purchased in Upper Picton. Antonis described himself as 'a native of Athens, a sailor and a labourer' and declared he wanted to become a citizen because he had 'become a purchaser of land from the Crown, and wishing to obtain a legal title thereto'¹¹.

His modest property with a brook running through it, fronting Hill Street, Upper Picton, at auction two years earlier.

He spent the rest of his life comparatively uneventfully gardening and tending to his grape vines, though a note on his naturalization papers indicates he was regularly away from home for extended periods. Neighbor and fellow wine-maker James Hooke hired the Hellene's skills, while according to some surviving evidence, the two men must have become firm friends.

A lonely Antonis tou Manoli passed away on 20 September 1880, of 'sun-stroke or paralysis', having lived 51 of his estimated 76 years in Australia. He was buried according to the rites of the Anglican Church in the Upper Picton Anglican Cemetery, overlooking the fields he had lovingly tended for decades.

In September 1983, the Athenian Association of NSW undertook a restoration of Antonis' final resting place, with very controversial results. The inscription was re-painted to make it legible and the sandstone grave marker cleaned. However, a black slab with a dedication from the Athenian Association was installed atop the grave. On the sandstone grave marker was affixed a silver-coloured metal plate with the names of the association's committee members.

Beyond the questionable aesthetic designs, the installation of the names of unrelated living persons to the tombstone remains quite questionable.

In 2010, Wollondilly Shire Council named a small thoroughfare in central Picton *Manolis Lane*, a fitting tribute to the pioneer farmer from the other side of the world who spent almost his entire adult life in the Macarthur region.

A final mystery regarding Antonis tou Manoli is the identity of the composer of the beautiful lines which have adorned his tombstone ever since. While there is some indication it was James Hooke (known as an amateur poet), there is no definitive answer to the question of who wrote the *epitaph* for Antonis tou Manoli: «In a strange land, the stranger finds a grave, Far from his home, across the rolling wave».



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In a strange land, the stranger finds a grave

FOOTNOTES

- 1 Modern Naupaktos
- 2 now Camden Park Estate
- 3 Hugh Gilchrist *Australians and Greeks Volume I: The Early Years*, page 38
- 4 near Cooma, New South Wales
- 5 Γκίκας Βούλγαρης (Gkikas Voulgaris) or Βούλγαρης (Voulgaris)
- 6 Xanthe Ann, Catherine, Helena, Mary Amelia, and Elizabeth Jane ('Dolly')
- 7 William, George, Harry, John Demetrius, and James Manolis
- 8 Amongst the grandchildren were Xanthe, Manolis, Demetrius, Ophelia, and Demosthenes. These names were the only links to their Hellenic heritage retained by Gkikas Voulgaris' descendants.
- 9 A settlement on Picton's outskirts.
- 10 Gilchrist,38
- 11 Gilchrist,38-39