

Travelling To Singleton

BY CAR

From the Sydney – Newcastle Freeway (F3)

From Sydney, follow the F3 to the T-intersection at the end and turn left onto the New England Highway. Travel through Maitland, Rutherford, Lochinvar and Branxton to reach Singleton.

From Putty Road

Travel along the Putty Road from Windsor for approximately 188 kilometers. As you approach Singleton the Putty Road becomes John Street which is the main Street of Singleton.

BY PLANE

Newcastle Airport, Williamtown offers regular direct flights to and from Australia's Capital Cities. Shuttle bus services are available from Newcastle Airport to Singleton.

BY PUBLIC TRANSPORT

Train

Country Link provides one train per day from Sydney to Newcastle.

Cityrail runs two services to Singleton from Sydney via Newcastle.

Bus

Hunter Valley Coaches operate services between Maitland and Singleton.

Port Stephens Coaches operate a bus service from Newcastle Airport to Newcastle City.

Keans Travel Express operate a coach service between Sydney and Singleton.

Greyhound Australia operate a coach service from Sydney and Brisbane.

SINGLETON

HUNTER VALLEY

unearth every single treasure

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Singleton Visitor Information Centre

39 George Street (New England Hwy)

Singleton NSW 2330

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visitorcentre@singleton.nsw.gov.au

WWW.SINGLETONTOURISM.COM.AU

SACRED

TO THE MEMORY OF

BENJAMIN SINGLETON

PIONEER OF THE HUNTER DISTRICT AND
FOUNDER OF THE TOWN OF SINGLETON.

DIED MAY 3rd 1853.

AGED 65 YEARS.

.....
ALSO

TO HIS WIFE

MARY SINGLETON

DIED AUGUST 5th 1877

AGED 82 YEARS.

.....
*And herein is that saying true. One sow-
-eth. & another reapeth. S^r John. IV 37.*

Benjamin Singleton

(1788-1853)

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Benjamin Singleton (1788-1853)

Benjamin's Story

Benjamin was born in London on the 7th of August, 1788 and was transported to New South Wales with his father, mother and brother Joseph. They arrived in Sydney on the 14th February, 1792. Benjamin embarked on many projects during his life. He was a miller, explorer, pioneer, inn-keeper, constable, boat builder, grazier and founder of the town, Singleton.

Benjamin married Mary Lane Sherland in February, 1811. He raised a family of ten children with his wife of 42 years; Elizabeth, Hannah (named after Benjamin's mother), William (named after Benjamin's father), Benjamin, Mary, Sarah, John, Emma, Louisa and George.

Benjamin built his first water-mill near Kurralong where he and his brother James ground wheat for government stores. A second water-mill was built at Lower Portland head and a third on James's 50-acre grant at the Hawkesbury.

Benjamin was an ambitious man, wanting to find a route from the Hawkesbury northward. Firstly he accompanied William Parr in 1817 on an exploration to find a passage. However he returned home but realized the advantages of discovering a trafficable route to the

Hunter Valley. He led his own private expedition in 1818. Benjamin's expedition withdrew, although his experiences did prove helpful to John Howe's exploration which Benjamin joined in 1820. They trekked through the present day Bulga Road, and came to look down upon the Hunter River and land they named St Patrick's Plains, due to the closeness of St Patrick's day.

Explore one of Australia's oldest towns with a rich history and an exciting future.

The settlement of Singleton

In December, 1821, Benjamin advertised in the Sydney Gazette that he would take charge of any person's cattle at St Patrick's Plains for the price of 10 shillings per head per annum. Mary Singleton along with Mrs Phillip Thorley crossed the rugged Bulga track to make St Patrick's Plains their home in 1822. They were the first white women to cross the track and Benjamin's son John is believed to be the first white child born at Patrick's Plains (1823).

By 1823 a steady stream of settlers began to arrive in the district and in February Morisset visited the area and reported to have found as much regularity as could be expected in a distant settlement and as security appointed Benjamin Singleton as district constable.

Benjamin built a residence near the Hunter River on his 200 acre grant of land which became the core of the town of Singleton. In 1827, Benjamin established

the first Inn in the district, The Barley Mow as well as a punt service across the river. The ford became a favourite river crossing for those heading north. In 1829 Benjamin opened a flour mill on the riverbank and established a post office at his inn.

By the late 1830's Singleton had become a town. Benjamin had built roads and sold a number of town allotments. Benjamin donated land in 1837, now known as Burdekin Park, for a Market Square and a courthouse was erected at the site in 1841. A lock up was also build at Burdekin Park. Unfortunately in the late 1870's the court house was demolished. The cells of the lock up still stand and can be seen at the Historical Museum.

The depression of the 1840's led Benjamin along with hundreds of others to be insolvent but this did not prevent him from making the first gifts of land to the Anglican and Presbyterian churches in Singleton. Benjamin was declared bankrupt in 1842 and passed away in early May, 1853. Benjamin was laid to rest in Whittingham cemetery.

Named after one of the first settlers, there is much to do and see in Singleton.

We invite you to unearth every single treasure.