John Garrett Bussell

John Garrett Bussell landed in Western Australia together with a number of pioneer families in the early 1830’s having sailed from England on the Warrior late in 1829. A sub-colony was formed by the Governor Sir James Stirling on the shores of Cape Leeuwin in 1830 and Augusta was so named.

These intrepid and courageous families led by “JGB,” bravely fought the elements for four years facing starvation, crop failures, stock losses, loss of equipment and the destruction of their home by fire near what is Augusta today.

Bussell explored much of the cape searching for better farm land. The families took up land in the Vasse in 1832 and settled there in 1834. The name for this parcel of land was called “Cattle Chosen.” The story of “Yulika” the cow is legendary. In September 1834, the cow having been ‘lost’ at Augusta in 1833, wandered into Busselton along with a healthy looking heifer. The Bussells named their new estate “Cattle Chosen” in her honour.

Standing on a northern beach some four years later, little did the founding families realize what a thriving town their new settlement would become.

He would not have foreseen that one day he would be regarded as the founding father of the town and where the town of Busselton was founded and named in his honour.

This sculpture of John Garrett Bussell represents the four pioneer families of Busselton as part of the 175th Anniversary of the Settlement of Busselton.

These hard working people paved the way for future generations and include the Chapman, Layman and Dawson families who landed with the Bussells, and other pioneering families like the Molloy’s, Turner and Green who held land.

*Image & Sculpture by Greg James & Photo by Craig Fennell and photo http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/John_Bussell*