

Adansonia gregorii — Boab

Scientific Name:

Adansonia gregorii

Common Name:

Boab

Affectionately Known As:

John Lawler's Tree

Register Number:

1

Location of Tree:

2 km west of Timber Creek NT

GPS:

-15.62356, 130.44718

Categories of Significance:

Size

Historical

Year Listed:

1978

This tree marks the grave of John Lawler who committed suicide in 1906 near Timber Creek. It is an unusual example of an isolated grave.

The N.T.T Gazette, 18th of January 1907 reports: "A man named J. Lawler committed suicide in a ghastly determined manner near the Victoria River Depot on 22nd December. The deed was done with a very blunt pocket knife, with which he simply hacked away his throat until he cut the jugular vein and bled to death. He was a silent morose man, about 40 years of age 5ft 10 inches in height, stout, fair complexion and whiskers, and blue eyes was supposed to be a native of New South Wales. Constable Aeland found thirteen pounds in his pocket and he had a number of horses *etc.*, but as usual with these derelicts of life, nothing is known of his relations. Three hundred men have died in the Territory during the last 30 years or so, whose relations have never been discovered."



John Lawler's Tree in 1987

