

There lies John Glover, forgotten colonial artist

I have just returned from a journey into the land of the long forgotten.

I refer to John Glover.

Long forgotten by an uncaring community, by those in government whose job it is to know better, by those who have benefited from the sale of his works and by all the organisations that should be showing more than zero interest in the history of this artist in Tasmania.

John Glover died in 1849 and, if recent events have been correctly reported, he can be credited with having produced the first great works of art these lands can claim to be their own.

As compensation for this achievement he now lies in a decrepit, neglected, unpublicised and decaying grave in a remote country churchyard.

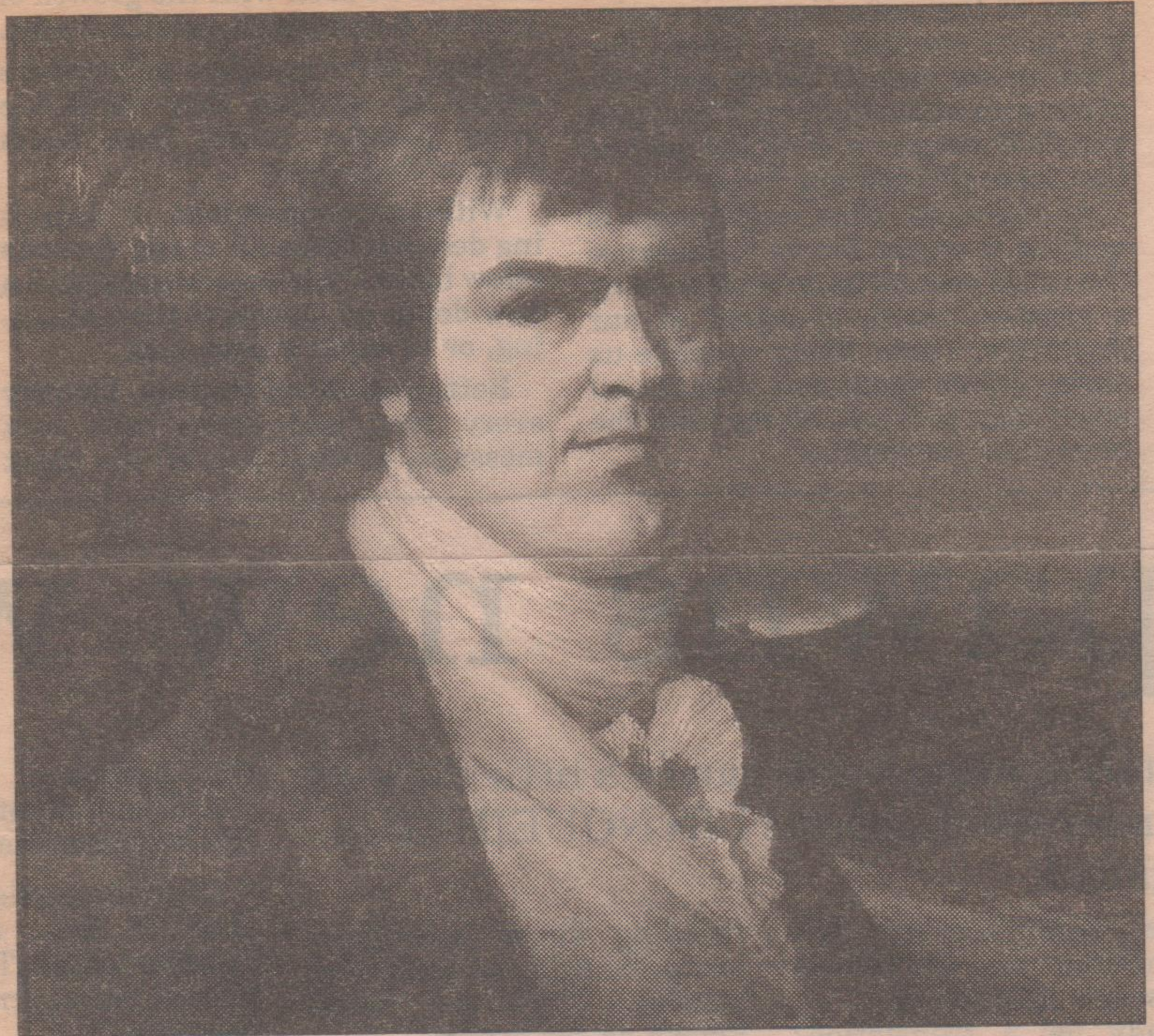
There is ample evidence that the many wallabies dance nightly upon his tomb and I trod warily lest the long grass should hide various serpents of the slithering kind which most certainly come regularly to pay him homage.

Not a word, not a sign and not a marker of any description directs the traveller to the Deddington burial site.

And even the gate sign merely says "Deddington Chapel of the Nile".

Nothing more of he who is buried within! However, I must applaud those responsible for the sealed road to the chapel gate.

Glover is buried without any semblance of public awareness in



CELEBRATED: But Glover's grave in Tasmania is neglected.

the area in which he lived and farmed. But had he died in his native England his burial site would be widely known and the world would go to him and bend knees with reverence.

We laud the fact that he lived and painted here.

We suffer a bad attack of hysterics when one of this works looks like leaving the state. Is Tasmania so

poor and disinterested, and this could include Canberra, that we cannot afford him a more majestic monument than the uncared for slab which merely says: "John Glover, Artist, 1767-1849."

What a bicentennial project went begging!

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