

# BENDIGO GENEALOGIST

*Bendigo Area of the  
Australian Institute of Genealogical Studies*

P.O. Box 145, Bendigo, 3552      bendigogen@gmail.com  
[www.bendigofamilyhistory.org](http://www.bendigofamilyhistory.org)

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## **Bendigo Celebrating 150 years as a City in 2021**

Gold was found at Golden Gully in 1851, leading to a rush to the diggings, people from all over the world came to make their fortune.

Twenty years later the Borough of Sandhurst had a population of over 32,000. Sandhurst was declared a municipality in 1855, a Borough in 1863 and a city in 1871.

1891 saw a name change to Bendigo. Controversy surrounds the origin of the name Bendigo several theories claim knowledge of first use of this name.

Bendigo was built on gold from dozens of rich reefs and alluvial diggings. Many of our ornate Victorian era buildings owe their existence to those pioneers.

*The Bendigo Advertiser 17<sup>th</sup> July 2021. P. Kennedy Editor*



Greater Bendigo City Flag

## **Office Bearers 2021**

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RESEARCH OFFICER DAVID COTTON	SPECIAL PROJECTS RITA HULL
PROGRAM & PUBLICITY MICHAEL TROUNSON	COMPUTER SERVICES RITA HULL
	WEBSITE MANAGER EILEEN GORMAN

### **Area Administrators Report – Lyn is on leave.**

We are back in lockdown, Bendigo Goldfields Library is closed. We welcomed some new volunteers to our group in May and June.

Research is continuing by mail thank you to team members.

#### **NEWSLETTER SUBSCRIPTIONS FOR 2021**

Thank you to those who [Subscribed for 2021](#)

[Four Magazine Editions a year \\$10 Pay in person at Library, by mail, or bank deposit.](#)

Mail to :- Bendigo Family History, PO Box 452, Bendigo, VIC 3552

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Check out the Library website for access to records using your Library Card or applying for a card, visit our State Library and many other overseas sites, including British and Scotland sites, many have free access with card registration. Remember to check our web pages at [www.bendigofamilyhistory.org](http://www.bendigofamilyhistory.org) for information and access to some names in the free indexes of Bendigo area.

*More details of Bendigo Library opening hours visit [www.ncgl.vic.gov.au](http://www.ncgl.vic.gov.au)*

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*EDITOR– Contributions to the Newsletter should be sent to the Editor at [bendigogen@gmail.com](mailto:bendigogen@gmail.com) or by post to Bendigo Family History, PO Box 145, Bendigo VIC 3552 The BFHG reserves the right to edit, abridge or reject contributions. Disclaimer – all articles are accepted in good faith. The BendigoFamily History Group Inc. and members do not accept any responsibility for correctness of any articles submitted therein.*

## BENDIGO'S CONTRIBUTION TO EUREKA

*by Rita Hull*

Gold was found in Bendigo Creek in December 1851. Within a few months the government officials and all their entourage of soldiers and police were camped in what was later known as Rosalind Park under the charge of a Resident Commissioner.

When Gold Commissioner **Bull** left Bendigo in early 1853 to return to duty at Mount Alexander, 22 year old Joseph **Panton** was appointed the new Resident Commissioner of the huge area stretching from Heathcote to Korong.

Amongst the many officials and military guard working under Bull, then under **Panton**, was Robert **Rede** as an Assistant Commissioner and David **Armstrong** in charge of the police.

Robert **Rede**, aged 38, spent most of the next 12 months establishing government authority at the various gold rushes west of Bendigo as the erratic prospectors moved camp almost daily, from Moliagul, Myers Flat, Bet Bet, Wedderburn, Beaufort, to Ararat, etc.

On 19<sup>th</sup> May 1854 **Rede** was appointed Resident Commissioner to take charge at Ballarat, to replace Resident Commissioner James **Clow**. **He** was already starting to lose control of the mob at Ballarat which was being constantly aggravated by corruption and nepotism amongst the police force.

The new Lieut. Governor, Hotham, had arrived in Victoria in June that year, 1854, and finding the State financial situation in dire straits, ordered all Commissioners to enforce the gold licence fees and conduct extra raids searching out un-licenced diggers. An unfortunate decision!!

David **Armstrong**, aged 30, was appointed Inspector of Police at Bendigo in February 1853 at a time when the whole Police Force was generally re-organised. He had previously been stationed at Creswick, then at Mt Alexander. **Armstrong** and a contingent of Police travelled in support of **Rede** around the Korong and western goldfields area enforcing law and order, sometimes with rather brutal force. He was reputed to be quite fond of the sport of Digger-hunting. He was appointed to a position at Ballarat about the same time as **Rede**.

The British government sent a fleet of ships carrying the 40<sup>th</sup> Regiment to Melbourne in 1853 to guard the gold being dug up, to ensure peace in the population and to prevent insurrection.

The regiment was then broken up into detachments of various sizes ranging from 10 to 100 and sent out to the many gold towns as the need became evident.

About two hundred soldiers were camped on Camp Hill (Rosalind Park) in August 1853 at the time of the Red Ribbon affray, but most were moved on when the troubles were sorted out without their assistance. Whether any of the detachment who came to Bendigo were the ones involved at Eureka is hard to prove.

In late October 1854 Commissioner **Panton** rode over to Ballarat to see how his old comrades, **Rede** and **Armstrong**, were coping and was quite disturbed by what he found. The diggers there had become so agitated, particularly by **Armstrong's** aggression and superior attitude to them, that the camp officials had felt compelled to sand-bag their tents to catch any stray bullets that might come their way at night!!

By the following December the tension at Eureka had exploded into a full scale rebellious conflict.

How much responsibility for the shooting match at Eureka rests with the men from Bendigo is difficult to define. Maybe we will never know!

## RESEARCH QUERIES September 2021

**KNIGHT..** Henry Knight died 1868 at Axedale. His wife Charity (nee Hodge) died 1871, so who looked after the children? Thomas age 14, John Leonard age 10, William John age 8, and Priscilla age 6. They are not listed as wards of the State. The descendants of the children are well known and listed, but their childhood is a mystery. Were they cared for by neighbours or extended family? None of them are listed in our school pupil database even though school attendance became compulsory in 1872. William stayed in the Axedale area after he married and had several children there. When Priscilla married Walter Burnham she moved to Melbourne.

**TINSLEY.** John Tinsley is listed in the rate books 1860s as living in Bridge Street Bendigo with an occupation as an electric galvaniser !!! We had to search on Google for that one! Actually all his children's births were registered in Melbourne and we are of the opinion that he probably resided in Melbourne but owned and ran the business in Bendigo. He was born in Virginia USA and married Julia Lammas in 1873 in Melbourne

**LAMMAS** . Julia Lammas lived across the road in Bridge St from Tinsley with her family. Her father seems to have been born as Leonard Lammas, but once in Victoria often used the name of Brock or Brook.

Living in that area it was no surprise that he worked at Cohn's brewery. One day in 1876 he was driving the brewery wagon to Runnymede when he had an accident and subsequently had a leg amputated. After this Leonard is listed as a sailmaker. We are a long way from the sea, but tent making required the same skills and afforded a reasonable living. Leonard and his wife Phoebe are buried at White Hills cemetery under the name of Brook but the death certificates say Lammas.!!

**ELLIS / McKEON / COTTERALL,** This query was a tangle of three convict families from Sydney. Sylvester Ellis, son of John and Ann Bilson, married a Catherine Jane Mckeon who was born in Bendigo. Their first two children were registered in the Sandhurst area. Their third and following children were born at Forbes NSW and part of the question was, "How did they get there from Bendigo?" Gold was discovered at Forbes in 1861, so according to a written history the Cobb & Co office from Bendigo gathered up all the horses and coaches on hand and immediately started a service running north. What a journey it would have been with young children.

**ADDISON..** Adam Addison and family arrived in Melbourne 1851. His daughters married soon after and had their families in Melbourne, but Adam died in a mining accident at Long Gully in 1857. The fact that his death certificate was filled in by his son-in-law who did not give the name of Adams wife was queried. In those days a wife usually lost her own identity and was never referred to by her Christian name. Adam and his son-in-law had come to Bendigo looking for gold and seemed to have left the rest of the family in Melbourne, probably only intending a short stay. Adam is buried alone at White Hills cemetery.

**RATTEN** The Ratten brothers dug for gold very early in the 1850's . The enquiry was, "Is there any record of what came next?" Apart from the fact that they may have carried gold around in their pockets, is there any record if they sent it to the Treasury in Melbourne with the Gold Escorts? We do not think so. Can anyone else give a better answer? We are aware there exists a list of gold packets sent to Adelaide with the early gold escorts and it is well known that one of the duties of the soldiers at the camp (at Rosalind Park) was to guard the gold deposited waiting to be sent to the Treasury but do lists still exist?

## A FRAME TENT HOME

By Rita Hull

A query about tent homes was sent to us in response to a mention in the rate books. During the 1850s tents were the most common form of accommodation on Bendigo.

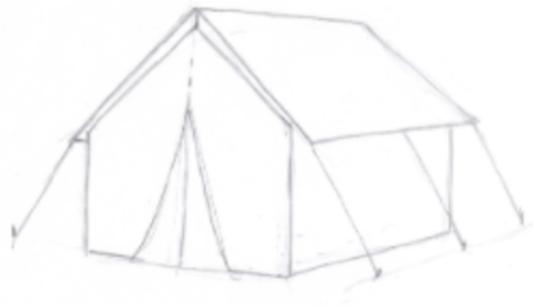
They came in all sizes and shapes; single man, old army bivouac style, some covered a wooden frame, some supported mainly by rope guy lines slung between trees, some were extra-large like the Catholic Church which could hold 200 worshippers (standing I assume)

A good place to see first-hand the variety of tents is Sovereign Hill, at Ballarat. Tent making was a very lucrative business at the goldfields. Most were made with a heavy quality calico, and calico roofs were common even later when boards were used for the sides of buildings. (There are many descriptions of this when buildings caught fire.) Tents were easy to fold up and move on when going from place to place looking for gold and tent making was actually only an extension of sail making for the ships.

Tents were rain proof so long as the fly, or outer roof cover, was kept taut. A frame tent would have a skeleton or frame built with saplings, any size you chose. In the very early days there were always lists of tents for sale in the local newspaper.



*The Church Tent*



*A Frame Tent*

The floor of the tent in the earliest days would be a layer of bark stripped from surrounding trees, even the Commissioners living high on Camp Hill found the bare ground too cold and damp for comfort. An energetic man may make a floor of split logs, but it would not be long before sawyers set up business selling sawn boards.

Because tents were usually pegged down tight to stop draughts so close to the ground some diggers made the fatal mistake of taking a dish of burning coals into their tent at night with the result quite a few died of carbon-monoxide poisoning. The more permanent tent dwellers often built a chimney at the rear of the tent to avoid any such calamity.



## NEW ACQUISITIONS Sept 21

BEN 233 The Aborigines of Victoria

BEN 344 The Fletts of Woodvale

BEN 565 Eaglehawk Private Schools 1868-1918

BEN 593 Eaglehawk's Welsh Churches

AUS 323.2 New Norfolk, North Circle Public Cemetery

AUS 570 Palaeography, Old hand writing

ENG 471.2 Dating old Photographs

Fiche QLD Wide Bay School Pupil Index, box 21

Fiche N SW Return of Land Holders 1885, box 23

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## IN THE YEAR OF THE CENSUS

Australian citizenship was not introduced until after the War in 1949. Before that we were British citizens. (Does that mean I am not an Aussie?), Then for a few years we had dual citizenship, Australian and British.

It was only in 1984 that we became truly Australian citizens and needed a separate passport to travel to Britain and overseas. In a reverse situation since 1984 British citizens had to apply to become Australian citizens to be able to vote, pay tax, or receive pensions and medical benefits etc.

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## CONFUSING CONVICTS

Prior to 1788 when England began transporting convicts to NSW thousands of convicts had been transported to America. A peculiar fact of history is that no-one ever says how many had been sent to America during the century before the Revolution.

Between 1788 and 1868, the year transportation ended, 163,021 convicts had landed in Australia. The next big migration occurred during the gold rushes. In the year 1852 alone, 370,000 free settlers came to Australia, more than double the number of convicts, yet every article about Australia in English genealogical magazines emphasises the convict heritage and ignores the freemen.

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## BOOK REVIEW

*Gold Tailings; Forgotten histories of family and community on the central Victorian goldfields.*

By Charles Fahey & Alan Mayne

This book is a combination of family histories with academic research using diaries, letters, newspapers, books, and fascinating oral histories; in fact all the sources any family historian should use. Even if your own family is not mentioned, their neighbours may be and all presented in the words of the original gold seekers living under harsh condition

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Many Newsletters ago I asked the question who really was **William Rice Goodman?**

*By Pam Keown part 1*

There were several hints left to follow, so through further research and DNA results, proof of who he really was has been uncovered.

William Goodman arrived in Sydney on the ship PLANTER in October 1832. He was one of 200 male convicts aboard the ship. The PLANTER 367 tons, was built in Lynn, England in 1829. It left Portsmouth on 15 June 1832 and the journey took 121 days, arriving 15 October 1832. Robert Laurance Frazer was the Captain. Surgeon Superintendent was Alick Osborne.

On 6 February 1847 he was granted a Certificate of Freedom. On the records it is recorded, had "real name Wm Allerton".

On the records of his eldest sons when baptised, he is William Rice Goodman and when he dies his mother is recorded as Charlotte Rice. Charlotte Rice had married Richard Allerton in London 1806.

William Rice Allerton was born at Somers Town, London on 26 March 1807. He along with his two brothers was baptised at St Clement Danes Church, the Strand in 1825 (as an adult).

On 9 August 1826 at St Botolph's Aldgate, London William married Eliza Williams, they were to have one daughter according to William's Convict Indent record.

On 11 October William Allerton was charged with stealing a gun worth ten pounds, property of George Wilbraham. It is recorded that he was aged 19, a land surveyor. The court case was heard on 26 October by the Lord Mayor, "bill not found" no written records. He was found not guilty and acquitted. (Old Bailey records 26 Oct 1826)

George Wilbraham 1779 – 1852 was a member of the British Parliament. The Mayor London was William Venables 1785 – 1840 who was a wholesale stationer.

On 7 April 1832 William Goodman and William Henry Barnard allegedly stole three silver spoons from the residence of John Augustus Thrupp, Spanish Place, Manchester Square. On 16 April they were arrested by Constable James McCarthy and appeared in the Old Bailey on 17 May 1832 before Sergeant of Law, William St Julien Arabin and Magistrate David William Gregorie 1790 – 1842.

Witnesses called to give evidence were Alice Deane, a servant to John Augustus Thrupp.

John a second servant to Thrupp.

James Pickett who lived with pawn broker, Mr Gofton and he took the three spoons from William Barnard on 7 April 1832.

Constable James McCarthy T115.

John Augustus Thrupp who stated "Goodman's mother came to me to intercede for him – I found his family was in great distress and he had expressed great contrition; I did now wish to prosecute, but as the spoons had been sworn to by my servants, I could not compromise my own character" (Old Bailey records 17 May 1832)

Both Williams were convicted of the charges and sentenced to 7 years transportation to New South Wales. William Goodman left less than a month later.

On his Convict Indent record on arriving in Sydney he was 25 years old, could read and write, was Protestant, married, had one daughter, born in London and a farmer's son. Offence was stealing plate, tried at Old Bailey 17 May 1832, sentence 7 years, previous convictions none. Physical appearance height 5 feet 7 inches, complexion fair, little freckled. Colour of hair and eyes, brown and blue. Remarks: Scar over left eyebrow, scar forefinger of left hand, mole left side of chin.

(NSW Convict Indent record).

On 1 December 1832 he was admitted to the Phoenix Hulk where he stayed till 28 December. Occupation clerk and behaviour while in hulk – good. The Phoenix was the first floating prison used in Australian waters between 1825 and 1837. It was moored in Sydney Harbour at Lavender Bay and provided prison accommodation when existing colonial gaols were unsuitable or already full. It could house up to 260 prisoners at a time.

In the 1837 muster he is recorded as assigned to the Government.

On 8 August 1843 William married Mary Ann Kirk at Maitland, New South Wales. The Reverend George Keylock Rusden officiated and the marriage was witnessed by Robert Marshall and his wife Sarah. They are recorded as guardians of Mary Ann. (Copy of original Marriage record).

Robert Marshall b abt 1877 arrived on the Zebra as a free settler. He died of Apoplexy, 20 Aug 1845 at Maitland. (Inquest record, NSW, Ancestry) He married Sarah Hodgkin on 29 July 1834 at Parramatta. Sarah had arrived in Sydney on the Pyramus on 4 March 1834, convicted for stealing money at Rutland Court of Petty session to 7 years transportation. (Permission to marry record Ancestry)

“A house fire occurred on Sunday July 13 1845 in York Place, Maitland. The occupants evacuated safely. Surrounding residents lent their aid with great promptness and good will. There was danger of the fire spreading to surrounding buildings, timber yard but due to the rapidity with which judicious precautions were taken, calamity was prevented and the fire was confined to the building in which it originated. Mr Day the police magistrate was on the spot with police and magistrate. Four ticket of leave holders named James Glass, Thomas Howard, Samuel Beasley and William Goodman and a prisoner named Joseph Eccles, whose activity in rendering aid to extinguish the fire came under the personal observation of the police magistrate and have been recommended, the four first mentioned for conditional pardons and the other for a ticket of leave.”

( Maitland and Mercury and Hunter Valley General Advertiser Saturday 19 July 1845).

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### **Meetings – Bendigo Family History Group**

September 18<sup>th</sup> or 16<sup>th</sup> October if Covid 19 restrictions allow.

“DNA” for Family History by Annette Delaney

November 20<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting – President Gail White Family History Connections  
“Yearly Report” & Election of Office Bearers

Meetings to be held at Bendigo Goldfields Library Room 1 ground floor if permitted.

Commencing 2pm