Courage and Resilience: The Pioneer Women of Ballarat Montage

SOVEREIGN HILL MUSEUMS ASSOCIATION

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Photographic montage of Pioneer Women of Ballarat, 78.0707, Ballarat Historical Society collection,
courtesy of The Sovereign Hill Museums Association.

The photographic montage of 'pioneer women' of Ballarat is an impressive collection of portraits of 32 significant women who lived in Ballarat in the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. The montage is part of the Ballarat Historical Society collection managed by Sovereign Hill Museums Association. It is believed to have been created sometime between 1870 and 1890, several decades after the arrival of the first white settlers in the district, and following Ballarat's proclamation as a city in 1871.[1]

After gold was discovered at Ballarat in 1851, the area was inundated with men and some women, who came to try their luck and seek their fortune on the goldfields. Thomas Hiscock was the first white man credited with discovering gold at Buninyong on 8 August 1851, sparking a chain reaction that would transform Ballarat forever.[2] Joanna Bath and her husband Thomas Bath were among the first gold seekers to arrive in the area. Thomas recalled those early days at a gathering of 'old pioneers' in 1872:

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1 Photographic montage of Pioneer Women of Ballarat, 78.0707, Ballarat Historical Society collection, courtesy of Sovereign Hill Museums Association.
2 *The Geelong Advertiser*, 12 August 1851, p. 2.

> I am one of the oldest pioneers of Ballarat, my wife and I having arrived at Hiscock's on Sunday, 31st August 1851 … on Monday 1st September, 1851, we fixed our tent on Golden Point, Ballarat which was then without a name.[3]

Women were an active presence on the goldfields and played important roles in the growing community, as wives, mothers and daughters, shopkeepers, hotel keepers and publicans, laundresses, performers, and in some cases, gold seekers. Susannah Morgan is said to have dug for gold on the Eureka diggings in 1853.[4] Another of the recollections shared at the 1872 gathering of 'old pioneers' is a story of 'a fair dame while filling a teakettle of water from a neighbouring gully picked up a nugget'.[5] Early Ballarat historian William Bramwell Withers was in attendance at this celebration and proposed a toast:

> To the ladies … that for them, the day we celebrate, the Eureka Stockade, the Pioneers of Ballarat, that spacious hall, the splendid City of Ballarat, and all those who were then assembled, would have been emphatically nowhere.[6]

What is a 'pioneer'?

A literal definition of the word 'pioneer' describes a person who is among the first to settle and/or explore an area, opening it up to further development by others.[7] It is important to note that the women in these portraits were among the first *Europeans* to arrive and settle in Ballarat. Well over half of them – 62 per cent – arrived in Ballarat after the discovery of gold, whereas 28 per cent were in Australia before 1851. They brought with them various ideas, customs, rituals, food, clothing, and farming and mining techniques, and they very quickly shaped and changed the landscapes around them to reflect the homes they had left behind. These 'pioneers' described, documented and named these lands in ways that made sense to them – with maps, measurements, and English language names. They saw the construction of buildings, roads and infrastructure, the establishment of governing bodies, institutions and organisations, and the development of a colonial community.

But the women in these photographs were not the first *people* in the Ballarat area. For tens of thousands of years, the Wadawurrung and Dja Dja Wurrung people of the Kulin Nation

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3   *The Ballarat Star*, 27 August 1872, p. 2.
4   Dorothy Wickham, *Women of the Diggings: Ballarat 1854*, Ballarat Heritage Services Publishing, Ballarat, 2009, p. 228; *Roll Book of Ballarat Pioneers*, Ballarat Historical Society, Ballarat, 1974; 'Susannah Morgan', www. ballaratcemeteries.com.au/2019/05/24/susannah-morgan, accessed 3 March 2021.
5   *The Ballarat Star*, 27 August 1872, p. 2.
6   *The Ballarat Star*, 27 August 1872, p. 2.
7   Macquarie Dictionary.

lived on and cared for the lands that now include the City of Ballarat. They had a rich and complex relationship with the land and waterways, carefully and skilfully managing natural resources and practicing their culture. They continued and continue to do so, despite facing genocide, displacement and the many devastating impacts of colonisation on their lives and traditional lands. If any people are true 'pioneers' of Ballarat in the literal definition of the word, it is the Wadawurrung and Dja Dja Wurrung people who first stepped foot on this land many thousands of years ago.[8]

Prior to the discovery of gold, Europeans arrived in the area in the form of early pastoralists and squatters such as William and Archibald Yuille, Thomas Learmonth, John 'Jock' Winter, and Hugh Niven, the first leasee of Narmbool (now a working sheep property and environmental biodiversity educational facility owned by Sovereign Hill). These men carved out vast tracts of land on which to graze sheep and cattle. Their activities disrupted the landscape as well as the lives of the Wadawurrung and Dja Dja Wurrung people. But these early arrivals were just a taste of what was to come after the discovery of gold.

All of the women in this montage came to Australia from the United Kingdom. The montage does not therefore reflect the contributions of people from many different places and backgrounds who arrived in Ballarat during and after the gold rush. The goldfields quickly became a multicultural melting pot. A good insight into this polyglot community is represented by those who participated in the Eureka Stockade rebellion; one account of the event records that twenty-seven different nationalities were involved.[9] Guidebooks for the central Victorian goldfields were printed in a variety of languages, including German, French, Swedish, Norwegian, Italian and Chinese. There were even novels about the gold rush published in many different languages. Sovereign Hill's collection includes a French children's book.[10] Many people saw migration as a way to escape the limited social mobility and opportunities they had in their home countries. War, famine, poverty, and political and economic instability were for some as much of a motivation as was the lure of making their fortune.[11]

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8   City of Ballarat's Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP) 2019–2021, www.ballarat.vic.gov.au/sites/default/files/2019-05/Reconciliation_Action_Plan_2019-2021.pdf, accessed 11 March 2021.
9   Dorothy Wickham and Clare Gervasoni, 'Eureka: a multicultural event', Eurekapedia, www.eurekapedia.org/Eureka:_A_Multicultural_Event, accessed 22 February 2021.
10 Benjamin Mountford and Stephen Tuffnell (eds), *A Global History of Gold Rushes*, University of California Press, Berkley, 2018, p. 5; 'Un Oncle d'Australie', circa 1895, 2019.2623, Sovereign Hill Museums Association.
11 David Goodman, *Gold Seeking: Victoria and California in the 1850s*, Allen & Unwin, St Leonards, NSW, 1994, p. xiv.

By 1859 there were more than 42,000 Chinese miners on the central Victorian goldfields, making up roughly one in every five men. Like many migrants to the goldfields, they came to Australia seeking a better life. But unlike other migrants, most of the Chinese miners planned to return to China once they had made their fortunes. They did not organise for their families to follow them, like many European migrants did. Consequently, there were very few Chinese women on the goldfields.[12] Chinese people on the Ballarat goldfields faced not only the same hardships as did all new settlers and fortune-seekers, but also experienced the challenges of vast cultural differences, language barriers, discrimination, and racism.[13] These people could also be called 'pioneers' for the work they did in carving out lives in Ballarat and contributing to the development of the town and surrounding area.

It is important to note that most of the women represented here had the means to provide financial as well as in-kind philanthropic support to their community. They sat on committees, they organised fundraisers and church events, they established missions and schools, and they donated money to social welfare causes. Giving back in this way was only an option for people with financial security, who were not overly burdened by child-rearing responsibilities and did not have to worry about where their next meal would come from, or how they would pay their rent or mortgage.

While the montage mainly features middle-class women, there are also working-class women represented. One woman worked as a housekeeper, and a few ran shops and hotels – particularly after they were widowed. Although these women did not have the same degree of financial security, their contributions to goldfields society – and those of other working-class women who worked as servants, farmers, and tradespeople – were no less pioneering. Perhaps in its representation of different classes of women, this montage is a reflection of the more democratic society that emerged on the Victorian goldfields, away from the entrenched class and social structures of the United Kingdom.

The traditional labelling of white settlers as 'pioneers' needs to be examined on a deeper level. There is no doubt that these people traversed foreign lands and carved out pastoral settlements and goldfields communities in harsh environmental conditions. Their stories, achievements and contributions are important, but it is also crucial to remember that these

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12 'Women on the Goldfields Part 2 – Working Outside the Home', Sovereign Hill Education Blog, https://sovereignhilledblog.com/2020/04/24/women-on-the-goldfields-part-2-working-outside-the-home, accessed 12 April 2021.
13 Mountford and Tuffnell, A Global History of Gold Rushes, p. 11.

activities came at great cost to others. Pioneers come in many different forms, and are not only represented by the white men and women on the walls of our museums.

Finding women in the archives

There are several montages of 'pioneering' Ballarat men that provide their names and some historic context, such as the photographic montage 'Ballarat Pioneers prior to the first issue of the Gold Licence, 20 September 1851'.[14] What makes this montage of women 'pioneers' particularly interesting, is that it represents rare recognition of the contributions of women on the Victorian goldfields. However, the women are not identified and there is no context provided as to how or why they were chosen for inclusion in the montage. At some point a handwritten list was compiled by the Ballarat Historical Society, identifying the women by their husband's names.

Pioneers of Ballarat, 78.0706, Ballarat Historical Society collection, courtesy of The Sovereign Hill Museums Association.

14 Pioneers of Ballarat, 78.0706, Ballarat Historical Society collection, courtesy of Sovereign Hill Museums Association.

Our task in uncovering the identities of these women and the stories they have to tell was no small undertaking. Most of the women, it appeared, were married to men who had visible roles in the development of the early European settlement of Ballarat. But as we dug deeper into the archive, we discovered – unsurprisingly – that these women played their own unique roles in Ballarat's history. Rather than being defined by the men they were married or related to, these were women who had lived, worked, raised families, and shaped communities. They are true 'pioneers' in their own right.

While uncovering and sharing the stories of these women helps to provide another avenue for understanding the past and a deeper insight into the history of Ballarat, the project has its limitations too. The question of how these 32 women were chosen for the montage remains a mystery, but it is clear that the montage depicts a very narrow representation of women in Ballarat at the time. They are all women who married, who came from working-class or middle-class backgrounds, and who seem to have been well respected in Ballarat society. Several of them claimed the dubious honour of being the 'first white woman' to arrive in Ballarat. This caveat of whiteness shows at the least an awareness of the fact that there were indeed other women in Ballarat at the time and beforehand. However, the montage itself makes no reference to the First Nations women or indeed any women that were from a non-European background, that were living in and around Ballarat during this time.

There is no doubt that women played a pivotal role in shaping Ballarat's early history. In recent years, historians have been uncovering more of the stories of women on the goldfields and how these women were not only present, but actively contributed to the world around them, including pivotal movements like the Eureka uprising. The lure of gold and the opportunities promised by a growing colony like Victoria attracted men and women from around the world. By 1854 women represented a quarter of the population on the Ballarat goldfields.[15] The chaotic nature of life on the goldfields led to the disruption of traditional gender roles and social expectations. While this caused much consternation among some members of Victorian society, it meant greater opportunities for women on the goldfields, who enjoyed increased independence.[16]

The women in this photographic montage were adventurous, strong and persistent. Some came to Victoria with their families, while others took to the seas on their own as assisted

15 Dorothy Wickham, 'Blood, Sweat and Tears: Women at Eureka', Eurekapedia, www.eurekapedia.org/Blood,_Sweat_and_Tears:_Women_at_Eureka, accessed 5 March 2021.
16 Wickham, 'Blood, Sweat and Tears'; Clare Wright, *The Forgotten Rebels of Eureka*, Text Publishing, Melbourne, 2013.

migrants, their passage fully or partially subsidised with the understanding that they would complete a contracted period of work in the new colony.[17] Women, especially young single women, were encouraged by immigration agents to immigrate to Australia because of the longstanding belief that women and families were essential to civilised and moral societies. Publications printed to promote life and opportunities on the goldfields promoted idyllic scenes that were particularly aimed at attracting women, like the following description of Ballarat written by James Bonwick:

> At no other diggings [was I] so struck with its order, propriety and comfort … The Sunday was strictly observed. A few parasols, veils and private arm-in-arm couples were encountered on our ramble. Many domestic scenes gave us a lively pleasure; as, the digger nursing his little babe, a mother reading to her children, family groups beneath boughs porches, a roguish, tiny fellow pouring water into a plate for his puppy …[18]

Guidebooks detailed the wages that could be earned for various occupations in the new colony and, for single women, the availability of the marriage market. It is perhaps not surprising that more women than men took up assisted passage to Victoria. Immigration agent Edward Bell reported that in 1853 almost 10,000 women received assisted passage, compared with just over 5,000 men. However, men far outnumbered women as unassisted immigrants.[19]

The colony was so overpopulated by men at that time, that many young, single women received offers of marriage almost as soon as they arrived. Some women wrote home to their families about the marriage prospects available to them in the new colony, one describing the scene every time a new ship arrived: 'When immigrant ships came in, the Diggers came down to meet them, to try and induce women to marry them and go back to the diggings with them'.[20] Given the protection and security offered by marriage at this time, and the social pressures, dangers and limitations experienced by single women, it is not surprising to discover that some women who came to Australia as assisted migrants broke their work contracts early and married soon after they arrived.[21] But marriage came with its own challenges. There was no means of divorce in the Australian colonies before

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17 Assisted passenger lists (1839-1871), https://prov.vic.gov.au/explore-collection/explore-topic/passenger-records-and-immigration/assisted-passenger-lists, accessed 12 April 2021.
18 James Bonwick, 'Australian Gold Digger's Monthly Magazine and Colonial Family Visitor', quoted in Clare Wright, *Forgotten Rebels of Eureka*, p. 58.
19 Wright, *Forgotten Rebels of Eureka*, p. 60.
20 Wright, *Forgotten Rebels of Eureka*, pp. 107-108.
21 Wright, *Forgotten Rebels of Eureka*, pp. 107-108.

the end of the 1850s and even then, the law heavily favoured men. It was not until the 1870s that Britain passed a law allowing women to obtain a legal separation from their husbands on the grounds of cruelty.[22] But divorce also left a woman vulnerable, as did the early death of her husband. Just over ten per cent of the women in this montage were married multiple times.

Women's work in the domestic sphere is hard to quantify, but the contributions that women made to their families and the wider community through the labours they undertook in their households cannot be underestimated. While many remained economically dependent on their husbands because they were not earning an income themselves, their management of the household, children and often primary produce (including growing fruits and vegetables and tending farm animals), meant that their husbands were free to undertake paid work and participate in public affairs, including boards, committees and charities. Depending on the work and activities of their husbands, some women were also called on to work in family businesses, host social events and participate in local organisations, in addition to their domestic responsibilities.[23]

Of course, women also participated in the paid workforce in increasing numbers. In the census of 1854 just over half of the women respondents listed their occupation as 'wives or widows', but by 1861 that number had dropped to 37 per cent.[24] Some women, like Martha Clendinning, set up stores on the goldfields, earning regular incomes while their husbands tried to strike it rich searching for gold. Martha wrote in her diary that 'besides finding something to occupy our time, we felt we should much like some way of making a little money to help our husbands in their hard work'.[25] Acceptable paid occupations for women at this time included work that fell within the domestic range of 'women's work' and included jobs like cooking, cleaning, teaching, child minding, sewing, and other caring-related roles. Work within the hospitality industry was considered acceptable for women and between 1850 and 1870 there were over 100 women who were proprietors of Ballarat hotels.[26]

Several of the women included in this montage were hotel keepers and managers of boarding houses. It is interesting to note that around 40 per cent of them worked at some point in their lives as either storekeepers, hotel keepers or domestic servants.

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22 Wright, *Forgotten Rebels of Eureka*, pp. 177-178.
23 Wickham, *Women of the Diggings*, p. 75.
24 Wickham, *Women of the Diggings*, p. 75.
25 Martha Clendinning, 'Recollections of a Ballarat Lady's Life at the Diggings', quoted in Dorothy Wickham, *Women of the Diggings*, p. 80.
26 Wickham, *Women of the Diggings*, p. 79.

As did many of the women that arrived in Victoria in the mid-twentieth century, the majority of the women in this montage (over 70 per cent) experienced childbirth. Many had more than five children, and a smaller percentage (around 20 per cent) had no children at all. There is one instance of a woman adopting a child and we were unable to find any definitive information on the remaining women. There are few accounts of the experiences of women who gave birth on the goldfields or in the early years of Ballarat's settlement. Women tended to have children around 24 years of age, and many had numerous children throughout their childbearing years. The average family size grew from five children in the 1850s to seven children by 1861.[27]

Almost all the women in this montage who had children suffered the tragic loss of at least one child during their lifetime. Elizabeth Symons had twelve children but was survived by just one. Maternal and infant mortality rates were high during the nineteenth century. Until the 1890s, infant mortality rates in Melbourne were higher than those in London – a city with a far greater population.[28] While there are no official statistics for this early period, records kept by the Royal Women's Hospital in Melbourne found that maternal deaths between the 1850s and 1870s were as high as one in every 22 pregnancies.[29]

Graham family portrait, c. 1880. Betsy and James Graham had at least 12 children all born in Ballarat. Tragically, five died in infancy and another three died as young adults. 2018.0684, The Sovereign Hill Museums Association.

Childbirth was made more challenging in the rough and ready environment of the Ballarat goldfields. There was limited medical support available and no regulation of medical practices. Women relied heavily on other women for assistance with childbirth. For those who could afford the expensive fees of a qualified doctor, there was still no guarantee of a successful birth, with around seven per

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27 Wickham, *Women of the Diggings*, p. 56.
28 Janet McCalman, *'Diseases and Epidemics'*, Encyclopedia of Melbourne, www.emelbourne.net.au/biogs/EM00473b.htm, accessed 12 April 2021.
29 Wright, *Forgotten Rebels of Eureka*, pp. 169-170.

cent of all full-term births ending in fatality.[30] Around half of all recorded burials in Ballarat between 1853 and 1855 were children under five years of age.[31] Death was a common occurrence in the lives of these women, but that did not mean it was any less heartbreaking or traumatic.

The encounters that women had with the limited available medical support at that time can be found in archives relating to the deaths of husbands and children through disease, illness or accident. Sometimes a woman's own handwriting can be read, giving her testimony in an inquest file. Far too often are there stories of women having to bury children who were only weeks or months old. There are also many stories of women widowed and faced with having to support their families on their own. Some took over family businesses, such as hotels. Some operated multiple businesses with little support, while others became known for their philanthropic work with local Ballarat charities and social welfare institutions.

Charity, philanthropic and religious work was an acceptable form of unpaid work for women during this time and many of the women in this montage were actively involved in organisations and institutions that aimed to help improve the lives and conditions of those people considered to be less fortunate than themselves. There was a strong sense on the Victorian goldfields of the importance of charity and philanthropic organisations, which was strengthened by a strong aversion to the dreaded 'Poor Law' in Britain. Many immigrants to the goldfields and colonies were opposed to the idea of government support, which at that time could involve putting people in institutions such as workhouses.[32] Alternative social welfare organisations that formed during the early part of the nineteenth century included Mutual Benefit Societies and Friendly Societies, as well as groups affiliated with religious institutions. These organisations centred around members supporting each other, and encouraged civic-mindedness.[33] The skills that women gained in this kind of philanthropic work, as well as the networking amongst like-minded women, helped to lay the foundations for the agitation for women's rights and suffrage that took place later in the nineteenth century.[34]

Many of the women in this montage were connected to the Ballarat Old Identities' Association, which later became the Old Colonists' Association of Ballarat. Given the close connection many of the women had to this organisation, it is possible that the

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30 Wright, *Forgotten Rebels of Eureka*, p. 170.
31 Wickham, *Women of the Diggings*, p. 55.
32 John Murphy, 'The other welfare state: Non-government agencies and the mixed economy of welfare in Australia', *History Australia*, vol. 3, issue 2, 2006, p. 3.
33 '08 Building Community Life', Sovereign Hill Museums Association Master Interpretive Framework.
34 Wickham, *Women of the Diggings*, p. 76.

montage may have been commissioned by the association. It was officially founded in 1883 as a philanthropic and charity organisation to aid and assist aging colonists. The association provided aid, donations and assistance to members who were ill, in distressing circumstances or homeless. It ensured that all members received a decent burial when they died. Members of the association also attended the funerals of their fellow members, at the request of relatives. To become a member of the Old Colonists' Association in the early years, an applicant was required to be male, of 'good character and repute', and have been a resident in the colonies for a quarter of a century.[35]

Some women who were married to male members of the association were themselves nominated as honorary members. The fees for honorary members were the same as the annual membership for men, and while honorary members were not entitled to the same rights, there is evidence that they contributed to the success of the association in many ways. It is highly likely that women were influential in the charitable activities of the Old Colonists' Association. Many of the women in this montage who were connected to the association, such as Agnes Murray, were prominent figures in Ballarat for their own philanthropic endeavours. In fact, a number of the women in this montage went on to become life governors of the Old Colonists' Association. Becoming a life governor required a donation of two guineas and a vote from the Old Colonists' Association council.[36] In a few cases, members of the association attended the funeral services of these women, wearing fabric rosettes on their lapels – an honour reserved only for female members.[37]

While we have done our best to trace the lives of these women using the available archives, many mysteries remain. Despite the enormous amount of information that has been digitised and made available online, and the incredible work done by historians of women on the goldfields in recent years, finding women in the archives remains a challenge. The historical custom of referring to a woman by her husband's name (e.g. Mrs John Smith) and the added complication of women changing their names when they married, means that in some cases even tracing a woman's first name or maiden name can be complicated. All of the women in this montage for whom we could find birth records were born overseas. This required extensive searching through international birth, death and marriage databases, as well as migrant shipping records. In some cases, particularly for those with common names, it is difficult to narrow down exactly which Mary O'Reilly born in Ireland in the 1830s is the one we are searching for. But on the flipside, the joy we found in each small discovery

35 *The Argus*, 10 May 1888, p. 13.
36 David Rowe, Old Colonists' Hall Conservation Management Plan (draft), February 2021, p. 82.
37 David Rowe, Old Colonists' Hall Conservation Management Plan (draft), February 2021, p. 48.

and the ability to bring one more detail to a woman's story made it very much worth the challenge of many hours spent toiling through pages of nineteenth-century handwriting.

This account is just one of what we hope will be many more that seek to reveal the stories of women and broaden our understanding of life in the growing Victorian city of Ballarat.

Joanna (Johanna) Bath (née Vaughan)

1824–1900

JOANNA BATH was born Joanna Vaughan on 19 August 1824 in Herefordshire, England. Joanna immigrated to Australia with her family in November 1850. The Vaughan family moved to Ballarat by 1851 and that same year Joanna married Thomas Bath in Geelong.

Thomas and Joanna settled in Ballarat where they established the town's first hotel, known first as The Ballarat Hotel and later Bath's Hotel. Built on the site that is now Craig's Royal Hotel, Bath's Hotel was constructed in May 1853 as a single-storey wooden building with a wooden tower containing the town's first public clock.[1] Thomas Bath was the first person to be granted a hotel license on the goldfields on 1 July 1853.[2] The Baths left the hotel business a few years later and moved to a farm at Learmonth. At their property 'Ceres', Thomas began breeding long-wool sheep, gaining much success as an exhibitor at the local sheep-breeders' show.[3]

Joanna was reputed to be the first white woman to arrive in Ballarat. Whether or not she was indeed the *very first* white woman to arrive is unclear, but she was certainly one of the earliest white women to arrive on the Ballarat goldfields.

Both Joanna and Thomas were in Ballarat at the time of the Eureka Stockade but neither took part directly. Joanna found a pike (weapon) the morning after the rebellion and displayed it at an exhibition at the Ballaarat Mechanics' Institute in 1876.[4]

Joanna and Thomas had no children, but several younger relatives benefited from their estates. They left a lasting impact on their surrounding community. When the vestry was added to the bluestone Church of England church in Learmonth, it was erected in memory of Thomas and Joanna.[5] The inscription on the brass plaque reads:

> This vestry was erected in memory of Thomas Bath J.P. who died on July 29th 1901 and his wife Joanna who died June 1900 by their relatives and friends in appreciation of their kindness and goodness.[6]

1   *The Ballarat Star*, 6 October 1923, p. 1; 'Ballarat Hotel (Lydiard Street)', https://ballaratpubs.miraheze.org/wiki/Ballarat_Hotel_(Lydiard_Street), accessed 22 February 2021.
2   'Craig's Hotel', https://bih.federation.edu.au/index.php/Craig%27s_Royal_Hotel, accessed 22 February 2021.
3   *The Weekly Times*, 29 August 1896, p. 13.
4   Fine arts exhibition catalogue, Ballaarat Mechanics' Institute, 1876.
5   'Church of England', http://learmonthdhs.com.au/index.php/heritage-walk/34-heritage-walk-sites/heritage-walk/36-site-17-church-of-england, accessed 22 February 2021.
6   *Australian Women's Weekly*, 11 October 1972, p. 65.

Isabella Chalmers (née Main)

1828–1902

ISABELLA CHALMERS was born Isabella Main in Airdrie, Scotland in 1828. She married Henry Black Chalmers on 18 June 1849 and one month later the newly wedded couple set sail for Australia.[1]

Henry and Isabella boarded the *Travancore* in July 1849 along with Henry's brother Archibald and his wife, who was also Isabella's sister, Beatrice. The Chalmers were among a number of free settlers who were encouraged to migrate to Australia by Scottish-born John Dunmore Lang, who was an active promoter of immigration and concerned for the moral health and wellbeing of the colonies, given their large convict populations.[2] The Chalmers family arrived in Geelong in November 1849. Newspapers praised the 'very superior class of immigrants' on board the *Travancore*.[3]

Henry and Isabella first settled in Geelong where Henry started a business as a merchant. When gold was discovered in 1851, they moved to Ballarat. But unlike most, Henry and Isabella did not seek their fortune underground. Instead, Henry established a tool repair business, fixing broken shovels and pickaxes from a tent on the goldfields.[4]

While Henry established himself as a successful merchant, soon opening a shop in Bridge Street, Isabella was busy raising their ten children. Tragically, four of her children died before her: Ann and John during infancy, James Dickson of typhoid fever at 21 and Thomas Tweeddale at 23.[5]

Isabella inherited her sons' estates when they died and by the time of her death in 1902, she had acquired quite a portfolio of real estate and assets in her own name. In her will, Isabella left everything to her husband Henry, the total sum of which was the equivalent of over one million dollars today.[6] At the age of 75, Isabella died of pneumonia at her home in Sturt Street. The report of her death in the *Ballarat Star* described her as 'a colonist of 52 years'.[7]

Isabella was buried in the Ballarat Old Cemetery with her two sons and husband.[8]

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1 Isabella Main Chalmers probate record; family history written by W.E.G. (Eddie) Butt supplied to the Ballarat Library 29 May 1982.
2 D.W.A. Baker, 'Lang, John Dunmore (1799–1878)', Australian Dictionary of Biography, National Centre of Biography, Australian National University, https://adb.anu.edu.au/biography/lang-john-dunmore-2326/text2953, published first in hardcopy 1967, accessed online 10 February 2021.
3 *Victorian Colonist and Western District Advertiser*, 4 November 1849 quoted in Rosemary Lawson, 'Dr. John Dunmore Lang and Immigration', Masters Thesis, Australian National University, 1966, https://openresearch-repository.anu.edu.au/bitstream/1885/112115/2/b12930659_Lawson_Rosemary_Lucille.pdf, accessed 10 February 2021.
4 Family history written by W.E.G. (Eddie) Butt supplied to the Ballarat Library 29 May 1982.
5 Victorian Registry of Births, Deaths and Marriages.
6 *The Advocate*, 14 June 1902. Probate record of Isabella Chalmers: £7,529 equates to $1,091,102 in 2019.
7 *The Ballarat Star*, 5 April 1902.
8 Ballarat Cemeteries records.

Ellen Fern (née O'Hair or Kerr or Herr)

c. 1846–1893

ELLEN FERN was one of Ballarat's early arrivals. Believed to have been born in Ireland around 1846, there is some doubt regarding her maiden name, which is represented in various forms in the records as either Kerr, O'Hair or Herr.

In 1863 Ellen married Daniel Fern, a fellow immigrant to Ballarat who was originally from the Isle of Man. Both Daniel and Ellen were in Ballarat from the early 1850s, Daniel having arrived in 1854.[1]

Before he met Ellen, Daniel – like so many others – tried his luck on the goldfields and was later involved in mining companies including the Sebastopol Plateau, the Great Redan Extended Mine and Glendinning's Freehold Gold Mining Company.[2] He gained a reputation within mining circles and became very successful.

Ellen and Daniel had nine children together over the course of two decades. They lost one son, John Joseph, when he was just five years old in 1872. The family spent some time living in Stawell, before returning to Ballarat.[3]

By 1873 Daniel was working as a publican and from 1881 to 1891 he ran Fern's Hotel on the corner of Sturt and Albert streets. Around 1891 Daniel purchased the George Hotel, the second oldest hotel in Ballarat, for what was described as 'a high figure'.[4] Daniel managed the hotel until his death in April 1893, aged 59. For a few short months after her husband's death, Ellen Fern became the proprietor of the George Hotel. She also inherited all of Daniel's estate, valued at over £7,000 (the equivalent of more than a million dollars today).[5] But Ellen did not long outlive her husband – she died in October that same year.

Newspapers reported of Ellen's death:

> Mrs Fern, proprietress of the George Hotel, and widow of the late Mr Daniel Fern, died this evening after a lingering illness. The deceased lady, who was one of the first of her sex to arrive in Ballarat in the early fifties, was only 51 years of age, and the announcement of her death will be received with regret by her numerous friends in Ballarat, Stawell and Melbourne.[6]

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1   *Roll Book of Ballarat Pioneers*, Ballarat Historical Society, Ballarat, 1974.
2   William Bramwell Withers, *The History of Ballarat: from the first pastoral settlement to the present time*, F.W. Niven & Co., Ballarat, 1887, p. 354; The Bendigo Advertiser, 13 April 1893, p. 2; The Ballarat Star, 20 November 1873, p. 4.
3   *The Argus*, 6 October 1893, p. 6.
4   *The Age*, 13 April 1893, p. 5.
5   *Table Talk*, 19 May 1893, p. 20.
6   *The Argus*, 6 October 1893, p. 6.

Both Ellen and Daniel were members of the Old Colonists' Association. Daniel was the first treasurer of the association and was made a life governor in 1890. Members of the association met at the George Hotel to follow the funeral procession for Ellen.[7] They were joined by a large number of prominent citizens.[8]

Ellen and Daniel's eldest daughter Mary Jane Fern took over the management of the George Hotel. Described as 'a young lady who succeeds in combining pleasing manners and business ability in a way which is most agreeable to all comers', Mary had learned much from her parents.[9] Under Mary's stewardship, the George Hotel maintained its reputation as one of Ballarat's finest establishments.[10]

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7 *The Ballarat Star*, 7 October 1893, p. 3.
8 *The Ballarat Star*, 9 October 1893, p. 4.
9 W. B. Kimberly (ed.), *Ballarat and Vicinity: a condensed but comprehensive account*, F.W. Niven & Co, Ballarat, 1894, p. 101.
10 Kimberly, *Ballarat and Vicinity*, p. 101.

Caroline Fraser (née Strange)

1828–1892

CAROLINE FRASER was born Caroline Strange in 1828 in Oxford, England. She immgrated to Australia with her parents and six siblings when she was just 20 years old in 1848. The Strange family travelled on board the *Berkshire* and arrived at Point Henry, Geelong on 3 October 1848.

Caroline's occpuation on board was listed as housemaid and the shipping register recorded her as being able to read but not write.[1]

Caroline met and married John Fraser and the couple moved to Ballarat, living in a house in Young Street, Ballarat East. John Fraser arrived in Ballarat in the late 1840s and worked in mining. He was at some stage manager of the Fraser & Barter Co-operative Company Mine and also president of the Miners' Association.[2]

The couple had seven children. Both Caroline and John were involved with the Old Colonists' Association, John as secretary of the association for many years.[3]

In 1889, John Fraser died suddenly at his home. An inquest held into his death determined he was suffering from what was described as 'miners complaint' for a number of years. The doctor concluded that John had died as a result of suffering from emphysema and asthma. At the inquest Caroline testified that her husband had been to see a Chinese doctor in Peel Street about 12 months earlier, who provided some medicine that seemed to help.[4] John was just 55 years of age when he died.

Later that same year, Caroline was made a life member of the Old Colonists' Association. She outlived her husband for only a few more years, however. In April 1892, Caroline Fraser also died suddenly at her home in Young Street, after suffering an epileptic fit. She was 64 years old.[5]

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1 Register of Assisted Immigrants from the United Kingdom, VPRS 14, Public Record Office Victoria.
2 *The Argus*, 24 January 1889, p. 8.
3 *The Argus*, 24 January 1889, p. 8.
4 John Fraser inquest file, VPRS 24/P0, unit 541, Public Record Office Victoria.
5 *The Ballarat Star*, 13 April 1892, p. 2.

Mary Ham (Née Jones)

c. 1833–1909

MARY HAM was born Mary Jones around 1833. There is no birth record for her in Australia and it is very likely that she emigrated from Great Britain some time during the 1850s. What is known is that in 1856 Mary married David Ham and the following year the couple built 'Wyvenhoe', a home that still stands at 161 Victoria Street in Ballarat East.[1] Mary was David's second wife.[2]

David dabbled in a few different occupations, beginning with a grocery store in Geelong before seeking gold on the Ballarat goldfields. In 1854 he was said to have brought the very first sausage machine to the diggings, much to the amazement of the diggers there, and afterwards opened a butcher shop.[3] By 1867 David was working as a sharebroker and he became director of several mining companies. He was elected to the Legislative Council in 1886.[4]

Mary and David had nine children together. All survived into adulthood and went on to have very successful careers.[5] In 1906, Mary and David celebrated their golden wedding anniversary. David died of pneumonia in 1908, followed by Mary in 1909.[6] Both are buried in the Ballarat Cemetery. Their marriage, it seems, was one of love. In her will Mary wrote:

> I direct the executors of my estate to have erected over the grave of my dear and lamented husband, David Ham, a suitable tombstone and railing around the same.[7]

1   Victorian Registry of Births, Deaths and Marriages; www.realestate.com.au/sold/property-house-vic-ballarat+east-113331963, accessed 24 February 2021.
2   *The Age*, 4 January 1908, p. 11.
3   W. B. Kimberly (ed.), *Ballarat and Vicinity: a condensed but comprehensive account*, F.W. Niven & Co, Ballarat, 1894, p. 61.
4   *The Age*, 4 January 1908, p. 11; Eurekapedia, David Ham: www.eurekapedia.org/David_Ham, accessed 24 February 2021.
5   Victorian Registry of Births, Deaths and Marriages.
6   *The Age*, 4 January 1908, p. 11; *Brisbane Courier*, 15 April 1909, p. 7.
7   Mary Ham will, 1909, VPRS 7591/P2, unit 434 and probate 1909, VPRS 28/3, unit 37, Public Record Office Victoria.

Christina Hill (née Meldrum)

(1836–unknown)

CHRISTINA HILL was born Christina Meldrum in Fife, Scotland to parents Robert Meldrum and Jean Douglas in 1836.[1] At just 20 years of age, she left her homeland and immigrated to Australia as an assisted immigrant. Perhaps Christina had read about the opportunities that awaited young people in the growing colony, the higher wages and booming marriage market that meant single, hardworking women had more opportunities to create a life they wanted.

Christina boarded the ship *Almora* in Liverpool, England and arrived in Melbourne on 13 September 1856. In the passenger records Christina is listed as a farm servant who could read and write. She travelled alongside 10-year-old Elizabeth Meldrum – perhaps a younger cousin or niece.

Not much can be found about what Christina did for those first few years in Melbourne. What we do know is that by 1860 she had met and married miner David Hill. Christina and David had five children together. The couple tragically lost three children in infancy: two daughters and a son. Two daughters survived, Isabella and Mary, born in Ballarat in 1866 and 1870.[2]

David Hill was originally born in New York. He was listed in the Ballarat directory as a quartz miner, so was perhaps attracted to Ballarat – as were so many others – by the lure of the gold rush in the 1850s. It seems that David did not much care for family life. Perhaps losing three children so young put additional strain on the relationship, or perhaps the lure of gold was just too strong. Either way, there were at least three occasions during the 1870s when Christina petitioned her husband in court for child maintenance.

In 1871 Christina claimed that David left her 'without means of support', but the case was dismissed. She tried again in 1875. Newspapers at the time reported that the couple had been separated 'for about sixteen months' and in this case, Christina did win additional support.[3] They both appeared once more in the courts in 1877, when Christina petitioned again for child maintenance, this time stating her husband had been gone for three years. On this occasion the case was dismissed.[4]

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1   *Scotland, Select Births and Baptisms*, 1564-1950, online database, Ancestry.com.
2   Victorian Registry of Births, Deaths and Marriages.
3   *The Ballarat Star*, 25 August 1875, p. 4.
4   *The Ballarat Star*, 18 April 1877, p. 4.

In October 1880, David Hill advertised to sell his quartz crushing operation, which he was no longer able to operate due to ill health.[5] He died a short time later. *The Ballarat Courier* reported the death of David Hill and described him as 'one of our foremost Ballarat East miners, and to whose energy and perseverance may be attributed much of the mining development in that quarter'.[6]

Christina was left with the care of two children and no chance of any support from her now deceased husband. In late 1880 she advertised in *The Ballarat Courier* to obtain a publican's license for a house at Musk Creek.[7] In December that same year she was granted her publican's license.[8]

Unfortunately, this is the last record of Christina that can be found in the archives. Unlike her husband, there is no obituary commemorating the impact she had as one of Ballarat's earliest settlers, nor can we discover when she died or where she was buried.

5   *The Ballarat Courier*, 20 October 1880, p. 3.
6   *Geelong Advertiser*, 30 October 1880, p. 2.
7   *The Ballarat Courier*, 29 November 1880, p. 3.
8   *The Ballarat Star*, 11 December 1880, p. 3.

Emma Luplau
(née Woodhams)

(1839–1913)

EMMA LUPLAU was born Emma Woodhams in 1839 in Great Britain. Emma immigrated to Australia where she met Dutch-born Adam William Luplau, who was known as William. Records show that Emma and William were married in 1865.[1]

William arrived in Australia eager to seek his fortune on the goldfields. He travelled first to Bendigo where he tried his hand at mining, before moving to Ballarat and becoming involved in the management of the North and South Plateau Companies and the Sebastopol Plateau Company. He later became a sharebroker.

Emma and William lived at 76 Lydiard Street, Ballarat in a home that was designed by local architects Messers James and Creber and built by local builder A. J. Boulton. Newspapers gave a detailed description of the house after the couple hosted a housewarming lunch in 1881:

> The residence contains all the latest appliances for utility and comfort, and is really quite a marvel as showing what modern architecture can accomplish ... Throughout the whole residence the furniture and fittings are choice and tasteful, no ordinary expense having been spared to make a comfortable home.[2]

Emma and William had six children, born between 1856 and 1869. They lost one daughter, Winifred, at 7 months old.[3]

William was made a life governor of the Old Colonists' Association in August 1888, but due to ill health the couple left Ballarat the following year and moved to South Yarra in Melbourne. William died there in 1899.[4] Emma outlived her husband by another 14 years. She died at her home at 145 Toorak Road, South Yarra on 6 November 1913. She was 74 years old.[5]

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1 Victorian Registry of Births, Deaths and Marriages shows Emma Woodhams and Adam William Luplan as being married in 1865. However, given that the couple had three children with the first born in 1856, it is suspected that this might be an error in the record and is maybe meant to be 1856.
2 *The Ballarat Star*, 7 July 1881, p. 4.
3 Victorian Registry of Births, Deaths and Marriages.
4 *The Argus*, 15 May 1899, p. 1.
5 *The Argus*, 7 November 1913, p. 1.

Elizabeth Malyon (née Tonkin)

(1838–1898)

ELIZABETH MALYON was born Elizabeth Tonkin in Great Britain in 1838. She arrived in the bustling gold rush town of Ballarat in 1852 at a time when – it was later noted – 'the struggles of the rising colony bore even more heavily on women than on men'.[1] After her death the Old Colonists' Association reported:

> Few women were found in the colony in the early fifties and their inclusion in the Old Colonists' Association books is a silent testimony to the hardships borne and the difficulties overcome in the pioneer work of Victoria.[2]

In 1858, Elizabeth met and married William Henry Malyon, a chemist who would go on to own and operate a chain of successful pharmacies in Ballarat. Elizabeth and William had ten children together; two did not survive infancy and one daughter died at 18.[3] Elizabeth gave birth to her first child, Ann, in 1859 on the goldfields at Italian Gully, a mining settlement located just outside Scarsdale.[4]

William Malyon's shop became a fixture in Ballarat over the years and one newspaper account described the business as 'inseparably associated with the rise and progress of Ballarat'.[5] Established in 1855, William Malyon soon gained a reputation for his scientific skills and experimental products. He patented many pharmaceutical products that gained fame across the country, including Ligmolliene Cream and Soaps, Australian Champion Horse Ointment, Cock's Herbal Worm Syrup, Tarrant's Embrocation, Malyon's Iceland Maso Emulsion and Maylon's Australian Eye Location and Salve.[6]

William and Elizabeth's son Edwin Enoch joined the family business and continued to operate the pharmacy after his father's death in 1911. Elizabeth died in 1898, leaving behind her husband and seven children.[7]

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1   *The Ballarat Star*, 6 January 1899, p. 1.
2   *The Ballarat Star*, 6 January 1899, p. 1.
3   Victorian Registry of Births, Deaths and Marriages.
4   Victorian Registry of Births, Deaths and Marriages.
5   *The Ballarat Star*, 3 November 1917, p. 7.
6   *The Ballarat Star*, 3 November 1917, p. 7.
7   *The Ballarat Star*, 6 January 1899, p. 1.

Margaret Shand
(née Purnell)

(1830–1920)

MARGARET PURNELL was born into a large family in England in 1830. She was working as a house servant in Kent when, at 20 years of age, she set off for a new life in Australia.[1]

Margaret landed in Sydney on the *Lord Stanley* in August 1850. She married Robert Shand in 1852 and the couple soon joined thousands of people flocking to Ballarat in the hope of finding their fortune on the goldfields.[2]

Margaret later claimed to have been present with her husband at both the Monster Meeting on Bakery Hill prior to the Eureka Rebellion, when Peter Lalor was chosen as the leader of the diggers, and during the events of the struggle itself. Over 60 years later, in 1917 at the age of 87, Margaret recounted her memories to the *Evening Echo* newspaper:

> "I can see them putting forward Peter Lalor as leader now," was Mrs Shand's claim. She had been drawn into the centre of the field on the day he made his first speech, by the fact that a load of butter had arrived at Ballarat. "I had my 5/ ready in my hand to get me a pound of butter," she declared … she was determined to be at [her husband's] heels throughout the struggle. Thus, when the rush was made against the military she was in the ranks …[3]

Margaret recalled seeing Captain Wise, leader of the group of soldiers and police that attacked the miners, mortally wounded in the fight.[4]

Margaret and Robert later had two sons, Robert Joseph Henry in 1859 and William George in 1862. Robert senior died at the age of 46 in 1877. He was no longer a miner by that stage of his life, but was working on the local railway. Margaret provided a written statement to the inquest into her husband's death, detailing his illness, treatment by local doctors, and death as a result of heart disease.[5]

Margaret continued to live in their weatherboard cottage in Wills Street, Ballarat with her two sons, and supported herself by working as a nurse. However, she wrote in 1899 that she had 'only earned sufficient money to barely maintain myself', and relied on the financial support of her sons.[6]

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1 *England, Select Births and Christenings*, 1538-1975, online database, Ancestry.com; New South Wales, Australia, *Assisted Immigrant Passenger Lists, 1828-1896*, online database, Ancestry.com.
2 NSW Registry of Births, Deaths and Marriages.
3 *The Argus*, 11 April 1917, p. 11; *Evening Echo*, 11 April 1917, p. 2.
4 *Evening Echo*, 11 April 1917, p. 2.
5 Robert Shand inquest record, 1877, VPRS 24/P0, unit 360, Public Record Office Victoria.
6 Victorian Registry of Births, Deaths and Marriages; Robert Shand probate, 1877, VPRS 28/P2, unit 519, Public Record Office Victoria.

Late in life, as one of Ballarat's oldest residents, Margaret enjoyed some notoriety for her first-hand accounts of the Eureka Rebellion, and was a guest at events held to commemorate the anniversary of the uprising.[7]

Margaret died in 1920 at the age of 90. She was buried with her husband, son and baby granddaughter in the Ballarat Old Cemetery.[8]

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7 *Geelong Advertiser*, 10 December 1912, p. 5; *The Telegraph* (Brisbane), 12 December 1913, p. 12.
8 Ballarat Cemeteries records.

Ann Smith
(née Bowmer)

(1823–1889)

ANN SMITH was born Ann Bowmer in Derbyshire, England in 1823. Very little is known about her life. In 1852, Ann immigrated to Australia with her husband Rupert Smith. Both were 30 years old when they boarded the *Gloriana* at Plymouth, England – much older than many other fortune seekers setting sail for Victoria during that time. Ann and Rupert arrived in Port Phillip Bay in December 1852.[1]

The couple operated a farm at Beaufort, near Ballarat. Both were involved with the Old Colonists' Association of Ballarat and donated funds to support the organisation.[2]

Ann Smith died in 1889 and her name was placed alongside that of her husband Rupert on a memorial tablet at the Old Colonists' Association.[3]

1   Inward overseas passenger lists, VPRS 7666, Public Record Office Victoria.
2   *The Ballarat Star*, 5 February 1889, p. 4.
3   *The Ballarat Star*, 5 February 1889, p. 4.

Margaret Ann Bregazzi (née Gourley)

(1849–1896)

There is little to be found about MARGARET ANN (sometimes referred to as Mary Ann) Bregazzi before she came to Ballarat.

Born Margaret Ann Gourley, she met and married Dominic Thomas Bregazzi (known as Thomas) in 1864. Margaret and Thomas had six children together.[1]

Thomas became quite a prominent citizen within the Maryborough community, playing a significant role at the Maryborough Hospital where he was secretary and collector. When he died unexpectedly in 1876 after a short illness, there was an outcry of sorrow from the local community. Notice of Thomas's death in *The Avoca Mail* described him as 'in every sense of the word a good man – genial of spirit, kind and affectionate nature, with that sort of appreciation of life which makes life itself enjoyable'.[2] Thomas was just 42 when he died, leaving behind his wife Margaret and four children.

Needing to find a way to support her young family, Margaret pursued one of the few options open to women in her position at the time and became a hotel keeper. In 1880 she became the landlady of the Telegraph Hotel in Maryborough. In June, however, disaster struck. After a very short but serious illness, her son Charles Herbert died as a result of contracting diphtheria. Two days after Charles' death, the rear of Margaret's hotel was destroyed by a fire, causing significant and costly damage.[3] It was perhaps a combination of these two tragic events that caused Margaret to relocate to Ballarat.

In July 1881, the following advertisement appeared in *The Ballarat Star:*

> Mrs Bregazzi, late of Maryborough, begs to announce that she has OPENED the SCOTTISH HOTEL, Dana street. Comfortable Board and Residence. Furnished and unfurnished rooms.[4]

Margaret remained the licensee of the Scottish Hotel for the next five years. In 1883 she was charged for selling mislabelled spirits with the intent to defraud, but by 1886 Margaret had been elected as a member of the Ballarat Licensed Victuallers' Association, so the fine did not seem to damage her reputation.[5]

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1 Victorian Registry of Births, Deaths and Marriages.
2 *The Avoca Mail*, 29 February 1876, p. 3.
3 *The Avoca Mail*, 4 June 1880, p. 2.
4 *The Ballarat Star*, 6 July 1881, p. 3.
5 *The Ballarat Star*, 17 February 1883, p. 4; *The Ballarat Star*, 15 December 1886, p. 2.

In 1888 Margaret took over the Robin Hood Hotel on Peel Street, which was then described as a wooden building with 13 rooms fairly furnished. It was a hotel that was chiefly a bar business, but averaged about six occupied beds a week.[6] As the licensee of the Robin Hood Hotel, Margaret was fined a few times for staying open too late and supplying liquor to an intoxicated person.[7] In 1890, a fire broke out in the hotel. Luckily it was quickly contained and just two rooms were affected. This time, the damage was covered by insurance.[8]

By 1892 Margaret was the licensee of the Bridge Hotel in Bridge Street, Ballarat. That same year she was once again in the papers, when one of her guests committed suicide while in residence at the hotel. His body was found by Margaret's eldest daughter Mary Martha.[9]

Perhaps hotel life became too much or maybe a new opportunity presented itself in Melbourne, but either way, by 1896 Margaret had left Ballarat and was living in St Kilda. It was there that she died, at just 47. Margaret was buried in St Kilda Cemetery.[10] She may have known that she was nearing the end of her life, because in her will she specified that her trustees were to ensure that her youngest children Florence and Arthur were supported at college until they reached the age of 19.[11]

It is interesting to note Margaret's insistence on educating her daughter as well as her son. It was much less common for girls to continue education beyond basic schooling during this time, due to differing expectations about how men and women contributed to society. While men were expected to work outside of the home, build careers and be the financial support for their families, girls and young women were expected to stay home and help with domestic duties, before they grew up to marry and have their own children. Perhaps Margaret held different ambitions for her daughter.

6   *The Ballarat Star*, 27 June 1888, p. 4.
7   T*he Argus*, 7 June 1889, p. 6; *The Ballarat Star*, 7 March 1890, p. 2.
8   *The Ballarat Star*, 14 January 1890, p. 2.
9   *The Ballarat Star*, 5 April 1892, p. 2.
10 *The Argus*, 14 June 1896, p. 1.
11 Margaret Ann Bregazzi will 1896, VPRS 7591/P2, unit 255, and probate 1896, VPRS 28/P0, unit 801, Public Record Office Victoria.

Matilda Bruce (née Meadows)

(c. 1835–1912)

MATILDA MEADOWS was baptised on 11 January 1835 in Wilbarston, Northamptonshire, England.[1] Very little is known about her life.

Matilda married tailor John Bruce and they lived in Ballarat. John died suddenly of heart disease at their home, 14 Talbot Street North, on 29 March 1872. He was 48 years old.[2]

Matilda was around 37 when her husband died, but she lived the remainder of her life a widow, and carried on the tailoring business from her home in Talbot Street. She died in 1912 at the age of 77 and was buried in the Ballarat Old Cemetery with her husband, John.[3]

1   Northamptonshire, England, Church of England Baptisms, 1813-1912 for Matilda Meadows, 1835.
2   Ballarat Cemeteries records.
3   Victorian Registry of Births, Deaths and Marriages; Ballarat Cemeteries records. Note that Matilda's address is alternatively given as 1114 Dana Street, Ballarat in the 1909 and 1912 electoral rolls. The home is described as being on the corner of Dana and Talbot streets in the notice of Matilda's funeral: *The Ballarat Star*, 28 June 1912, p. 5.

Elizabeth 'Betsy' Folland Graham (née Clarke)

(c. 1830–1915)

ELIZABETH FOLLAND CLARKE – who was known as Betsy – was born around 1830 in the village of St Giles in the Wood, in Devon, England to carpenter Robert Clarke and Esther Clarke (née Folland). By the age of 21, she was living in Devon with her widowed father and older brother Robert, and was working as a glover.[1]

Betsy had immigrated to Victoria by 1855, when she married James William Graham in Geelong.[2] James and Betsy had at least 12 children together: Esther Folland (c. 1856), William Henry (1857), Mary Anne (1859), Robert James (1861), Elizabeth (1863), John Edward (1864), Janet (1865), Albert (1865), Elizabeth Clarke (1867), Edith (1869), Ernest (1871), and Gilbert Gavin (1873). All were born in Ballarat, apart from Mary and Robert, who were born in New Chum Gully, Castlemaine. John died at just 1, and Elizabeth, Janet, Albert and Ernest all died within days of birth. Several of James and Betsy's other children predeceased their parents: Robert in 1887 at the age of 26, Edith at the age of 29 in 1899 and Gilbert in 1903, aged 29.[3]

James worked as a manager of mining companies, including the Britannia Extended Quartz Mining Company, based near Ballarat, Rising Star Gold Mining Company (Limited), which was based on Creswick Road, Ballarat, and Pomeroy Gold Mining Company, Creswick.[4] He was a secretary of the Old Colonists' Association, and president of the Ballarat City Free Library, where daughter Esther worked as a librarian.[5]

The Graham family were living at 'Claverhouse', 17 Ascot Street North, Ballarat when James died in 1910, aged 80. Betsy died at her Ballarat home on 6 June 1915 at the age of 85, and was buried in the Ballarat Old Cemetery. She was survived by three daughters – Esther Folland Graham, Mary Anne Mudie and Elizabeth Clarke Peters – and one son, William Henry Graham.[6]

1   1851 England Census.
2   Victorian Registry of Births, Deaths and Marriages; *Geelong Advertiser and Intelligencer*, 12 February 1855, p. 5.
Note that it was reported in 1905 that 'Mrs Graham came out in 1854': *Bendigo Advertiser*, 13 February 1905, p. 8.
3   Victorian Registry of Births, Deaths and Marriages; *Geelong Advertiser*, 13 February 1905, p. 2.
4   The Star (Ballarat), 8 November 1860, p. 3 and 24 November 1863, p. 4; *The Ballarat Courier*, 20 April 1881, p. 4.
5   *The Ballarat Star*, 30 June 1886, p. 3; *Geelong Advertiser*, 13 February 1905, p. 2.
6   *The Ballarat Courier*, 7 June 1915, p. 2; Ballarat Cemeteries records.

Agnes Murray (née Campbell)

(1837–1919)

AGNES MURRAY was born Agnes Campbell in Ayreshire, Scotland in 1837. Agnes immigrated to Australia in 1861, and later that same year she married John Paul Murray, a fellow Scot.

According to shipping records, Agnes was not the only Campbell on the *King of Algeria*. She was one of 12 Campbells to sail to Australia. On board were Agnes's mother Jane, father Henry and younger siblings. Only 11 of the Campbells made it to Melbourne, however; Henry died during the voyage.[1]

After her arrival in Australia, Agnes lived with relatives near the Murray River. But by 1882, Agnes and John were living in Ballarat at 'Tresness House', on the corner of Dana and Drummond streets.

John Murray was a prominent old colonist, director of the South Sulieman Company Mine, Ballarat Councillor and president of the Old Colonists' Association for 18 years. John died in 1904 aged 71 years, leaving his widow Agnes with a substantial income and assets.[2]

Agnes was described as one of Ballarat's 'best-known philanthropists'. She established the Murray Memorial Chinese Mission and built three mission halls in Ballarat, as well as founding the Paton Memorial Presbyterian Church in nearby Canadian.[3] Agnes also worked to establish leper hospitals in India, China, Japan and Korea and was a supporter of many of Ballarat's charitable institutions, including the Ballarat Benevolent Asylum.

When she died, Agnes directed that the proceeds from the sale of her house and belongings be given to Doctor Noble McKenzie to assist with her 'leper village' in Korea. She also left legacies to the Presbyterian Church, the Women's Prayer Union of Lydiard Street, Paton Memorial Church on Clayton Street and the Murray Chinese Church on Main Street.[4]

Agnes included an interesting clause in her will that suggests how influential the First World War was on the lives of the people in Ballarat. The clause states:

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1   Inward Overseas Passenger Lists (British Ports), VPRS 7666, Public Record Office Victoria; Eileen Luscombe, 'Sheroes of Ballarat and Surrounds', www.facebook.com/hiddenheroines/posts/sheroe-of-the-week-is-agnes-murray-nee-campbell-agnes-campbell-was-born-1837-dal/372909383406917, accessed 10 March 2021.
2   *Bendigo Advertiser*, 11 November 1904, p. 4; *The Ballarat Star*, 16 November 1904, p. 2.
3   Former Joseph Street Paton Memorial Presbyterian Church, https://victoriancollections.net.au/items/57a2ffdfd0cdd10d1c90a7aa, accessed 10 March 2021.
4   Agnes Murray will, 1919, VPRS 7591/P2, unit 601, Public Record Office Victoria.

… no portion of the assets shall be distributed or paid during the war to any beneficiary or creditor which is a German, Austro-Hungarian, Turkish or Bulgarian subject …[5]

Agnes died at her home on 25 February 1919 during the Spanish flu pandemic. She was 82 years of age. At the time of her death, Agnes owned real estate to the value of £750 and personal property valued at £4,131, close to $400,000 today.

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5   Agnes Murray probate, 1919, VPRS 28/P3, unit 919, Public Record Office Victoria.

Amelia Purdue (née Cohen)

(1836–1914)

AMELIA PURDUE was born Amelia Cohen in 1836 in Great Britain. Little is known of her early life, but by 1862 she was living in Sydney where she met and married Irishman Terrance William Purdue.[1] Terrance left Ireland at 21 years of age and spent several years in America where he worked as a harness maker before travelling to Australia.[2]

Amelia and Terrance moved to Ballarat in 1862 and Terrance established a very successful saddle and harness business at 7 Lydiard Street. Purdue's business gained a reputation for excellence across the country, with orders coming from South Australia, New South Wales and Western Australia. He won over 300 prizes at various agricultural shows and intercolonial and international exhibitions. He also gained international fame when he constructed the world's lightest racing saddle at 14 ounces (around 400 grams).[3]

Amelia and Terrance had eight children (seven boys and one girl), born between 1866 and 1882. Two children, George Nicholson and Charles Thomas, died in infancy.[4] Amelia was kept busy raising her family and caring for her household, but still found time to be an active community member in Ballarat. In 1892 she was nominated as a life member of the Old Colonists' Association of Ballarat.[5] Terrance was also a popular figure around town and an active citizen, becoming life governor of the Old Colonists' Association, as well as an active Freemason.[6]

Terrance died in October 1911. Amelia outlived her husband by another three years. She died in 1914. Her funeral was well attended, and she was buried in the Ballarat Old Cemetery.[7]

1   NSW Registry of Births, Deaths and Marriages.
2   W. B. Kimberly (ed.), *Ballarat and Vicinity: a condensed but comprehensive account*, F.W. Niven & Co, Ballarat, 1894, pp. 188-189.
3   Kimberly, *Ballarat and Vicinity*, pp. 188-189.
4   Victorian Registry of Births, Deaths and Marriages.
5   *The Ballarat Star*, 20 June 1892, p. 2.
6   Kimberly, *Ballarat and Vicinity*, p. 189.
7   *The Ballarat Courier*, 8 April 1914, p. 4.

Hannah Rennard (née Taylor)

(c. 1827–1891)

HANNAH TAYLOR was born in the town of Baildon in West Yorkshire, England around 1827. She married Thomas Rennard in the parish of St Martin-in-the-Fields, London in 1851.[1] They migrated to Victoria on the *Champion of the Seas* in 1862. Hannah was employed as a housekeeper, while her husband worked as a labourer.[2]

In 1869, a case was brought before the Ballarat court: Hannah Rennard v Charles Nelson, for unlawful assault. *The Ballarat Star* reported that Nelson had brought Richard Cousins home to the house of Mr Tallent, where Cousins was a servant and Hannah the housekeeper:

> Nelson ... was censured by the plaintiff, Mr Talent's [sic] housekeeper, for bringing the man home in such a state of intoxication, whereon he called her a vile name, which so exasperated the woman that she made a stroke at him with a small piece of bark which she had in her hand.[3]

Hannah avoided a blow that Nelson aimed at her, but he 'seized her by the arm, leaving a large most unmistakable mark ... and dragged her some distance'. Nelson was fined and imprisoned for seven days.[4]

By 1888, Hannah was living at 1 Talbot Street South. But she was living in the home of her employer, James Tallent, at 164 Lydiard Street North when she died at the age of 64 on 28 December 1891. She was buried in the Ballarat New Cemetery, and her death was noted at a meeting of the Old Colonists' Association.[5]

Hannah did not have any children and her husband is not mentioned in her will. She left £50 to her sister Elizabeth Holden, £50 in trust for her nephew James Henry Holden, and £50 in trust for Mr Joseph Syme 'the free thought lecturer of Melbourne'. Hannah left an additional £25 for Joseph Syme 'to buy free thought literature by Bradlaugh, Besant, Ingersoll, and himself' and to 'send said literature to my native village Baildon near Stradford Yorkshire England and have it circulated there free'. The Freethought or Secular movement gained

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1 Westminster, London, England, Church of England Marriages and Banns, 1754-1935, St Martin in the Fields, 1851; London, England, Crisp's Marriage Licence Index, 1713-1892, online database, Ancestry.com, 1851.
2 Unassisted passenger lists (1852-1923), VPRS 947, Public Record Office Victoria; Hannah Rennard will, 1891, VPRS 28/P2, unit 330, Public Record Office Victoria; Thomas Rennard will, 1904, VPRS 7591/P2, unit 422, Public Record Office Victoria.
3 *The Ballarat Star*, 19 July 1869, p. 3.
4 *The Ballarat Star*, 19 July 1869, p. 3.
5 Ballarat Street Directory 1888-9; Ballarat Cemeteries records; The Ballarat Star, 22 March 1892, p. 3; The Ballarat Star, 4 February 1892, p. 4. Note that Hannah's age at the time of her death is given as 63 in the Victorian Registry of Births, Deaths and Marriages index and 64 in the Ballarat Cemeteries records and death notice in *The Ballarat Star*, 29 December 1891, p. 2.

momentum in Australia during the gold rush years and into the late nineteenth century with the arrival of gold seekers who brought with them new ideas, beliefs and cultural and social expectations. The Freethinkers were seen as anti-religious because they advocated for freedom of thought on Sundays. The Freethought movement later became known as the Humanist movement.[6]

For a monument on her grave, Hannah allocated £100, which was 'to be spent under the supervision and direction' of her niece Hannah Holden. The remainder of the estate – around £800 – was placed in trust for this niece who shared her first name.[7]

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6   'Former Hall of Science', https://vhd.heritagecouncil.vic.gov.au/places/67232, accessed 13 April 2021.
7   Hannah Rennard will, 1891, VPRS 28/P2, unit 330, Public Record Office Victoria; Hannah Rennard probate and administration file, VPRS 28/P0, unit 605, Public Record Office Victoria.

Eliza Ann Rippin (née Westerdale)

(c. 1828–1915)

ELIZA WESTERDALE was baptised in the town of Eaton in Leicester, England on 6 April 1828. She had a son, John Richard, in Ballarat in 1863.[1] It is unclear what happened to the child's father, John Richard Owen, but it is possible that he is the 'John Owen, of Ballarat District' who died in the Hobart General Hospital at the age of 34 in 1865.[2]

Eliza married farmer William Rippin in 1866. Her son, who was around 3 years old, took on the name of Rippin. The family lived on a farm at Darriwill, near Geelong.[3]

Of their early married life, Eliza later stated:

> Our domestic relations were most unhappy, and I represented to his father the conduct and treatment I received at the hands of his son, and informed him that I intended to leave him and go to my friends in Adelaide, and asked him for assistance, as I had spent all my money on the farm, and he sympathised with me and stated that he would do all in his power to enable me to earn a living independent of the said William Rippin.[4]

Eliza went to Ballarat in early 1869, where she negotiated the purchase of a boarding house business in Doveton Street from Mrs Frith. Despite the earlier friction, William joined his wife in Ballarat in April 1869, and established a tailoring business at 6 Doveton Street.[5]

In May 1870, Eliza and William entered into another business on Dana Street, and in December 1870 Eliza agreed to rent the Globe Hotel on Albert Street for 12 months. Friends leant her the money to buy furniture, bedding and cooking utensils, enabling her to operate the hotel as a boarding house.[6] The following advertisement appeared in *The Ballarat Courier* in 1871:

> WANTED KNOWN, Mrs RIPPIN has taken the GLOBE HOTEL for PRIVATE BOARDING HOUSE, where Gentlemen and Families will find every comfort and accommodation. No. 2 Albert street, one minute's walk from Post Office. Meals at all hours. Vacancies for regular boarders. Terms moderate.[7]

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1   England, Select Births and Christenings, 1538-1975. Eliza's maiden name of Westerdale is on her son John Richard Owen's birth record in the Victorian Registry of Births, Deaths and Marriages. It is not clear if Eliza and John Owen were married, but she is referred to as Eliza Ann Owen in the record of her later marriage to William Rippin.
2   *The Mercury*, 16 February 1865, p. 1.
3   Victorian Registry of Births, Deaths and Marriages; *The Ballarat Courier*, 17 May 1883, p. 4.
4   *The Ballarat Courier*, 17 May 1883, p. 4.
5   *The Ballarat Courier*, 17 May 1883, p. 4; Ballarat Street Directory 1869.
6   *The Ballarat Courier*, 17 May 1883, p. 4.
7   *The Ballarat Courier*, 15 April 1871, p. 3.

Eliza undertook to purchase the Globe Hotel in July 1871, making payments in instalments that were completed in 1876.[8]

In 1883, William took Eliza to court under the Married Woman's Property Act, claiming that he was entitled to the Albert Street property that was in Eliza's name. Eliza argued that she conducted the business completely separately from her husband, but William disputed this, asserting that he was the proprietor of the boarding house, 'which his wife managed for him' and that she acted as 'his agent' in negotiating the purchase of the property. They also argued over who had provided the funds to purchase the earlier boarding house business in Doveton Street.[9]

William's lawyer argued that under the act, 'the savings of a married woman do not become her separate property unless she is living "apart" from her husband'. Because Eliza and William were living together, the business was therefore legally considered to belong to him as her husband.[10] The judge agreed, stating:

> Considering the very bad terms on which they lived, according to Mrs Rippin, there is really nothing disclosed from which anyone would incline to the belief that her husband ever contemplated giving up his rights in favor of his wife out of pure love and affection towards her.[11]

He accordingly found in William's favour and ordered Eliza to transfer the property to him. Eliza's lawyers were to appeal to the decision, but it was reported in mid-June that the case had been 'amicably settled'.[12] *The Ballarat Courier* reported that Mrs Alex Gaff had taken over 'the well-known and popular Albert Boarding House' and hoped to share in 'the liberal support accorded to her predecessor, Mrs Rippon [sic]'.[13]

Unsurprisingly, it seems that Eliza and William may have parted ways following the court case. There is no further trace of William in Victoria, and he is likely to be the tailor named William Rippin who drowned in Wilcannia, New South Wales in 1905.[14] By then, Eliza had moved to Warrnambool where she later assisted the Warrnambool Red Cross Society in preparing donations to be sent to the troops fighting in the First World War.[15] She died

8   *The Ballarat Courier*, 17 May 1883, p. 4.
9   *The Ballarat Courier*, 17 May 1883, p. 4.
10 *The Ballarat Star*, 10 May 1883, p. 3.
11 *The Ballarat Courier*, 17 May 1883, p. 4.
12 *The Ballarat Courier*, 12 June 1883, p. 2.
13 *The Ballarat Courier*, 19 May 1883, p. 3.
14 NSW Registry of Births, Deaths and Marriages; *Barrier Miner*, 6 November 1905, p. 2.
15 Electoral Rolls 1903, 1912; *Warrnambool Standard*, 1 February 1915, p. 3.

at the age of 88 on 25 July 1915 at 'Coryndon', Canterbury Road, Warrnambool. A death notice in *The Argus* newspaper described her as the 'beloved mother of J. R. Rippin, of Melbourne'.[16] She was buried in the Warrnambool Cemetery.[17]

16 *The Argus*, 28 July 1915, p. 1.
17 Find a Grave website, accessed 27 February 2021.

Sarah Ann Stoddart
(née Simpson)

(c. 1836–1908)

SARAH ANN STODDART was born Sarah Simpson in Ireland around 1836. She immigrated to Victoria most likely as an assisted immigrant on board the *Time and Truth*, which arrived in Geelong from Plymouth, England on 5 January 1853. The shipping records reveal that Sarah Simpson was 18 years of age, from Tyrone, Ireland and was able to read and write. As an assisted immigrant, Sarah was engaged to work for a Mr McDonald for a salary of £24 for a term of two years.[1]

By 1857, Sarah had met and married George Stoddart in Smythes Creek, outside Ballarat.[2] Together the Stoddarts had nine children born between 1858 and 1871. There is no doubt that Sarah would have been kept very busy looking after her growing brood, as well as assisting her husband who was during this time the licensee for the Nugget Hotel in Smythesdale.[3]

Sarah gained some assistance with managing her children when 12-year-old Elizabeth Liddle came to work for her as a nursemaid. However, ten days into the job, after an argument with Sarah, Elizabeth attempted to set fire to the hotel and was arrested and charged with arson. Elizabeth accused Sarah of hitting her and tearing her clothes.[4]

As well as managing her family, Sarah had the difficult task of keeping her publican husband away from alcohol. It seems, however, that by 1873 George's addiction had got the better of him. After a period of some months of hard drinking, he died suddenly one night. At the inquest Sarah reported that:

> About eight o'clock Wednesday night he had some supper, salad and bread and cheese, he had been drinking for some time past. He had not been ailing that I knew of to require a doctor.[5]

The inquest found George Stoddart had died of apoplexy, although there was a question in the inquest file about whether or not he had been given poison in the form of opium on the night in question.[6]

After George's death, Sarah took on the license for the Nugget Hotel and continued to run the business until 1878, when her application for renewal was refused on the grounds that

1 Register of Assisted Immigrants from the United Kingdom, VPRS 14, Public Record Office Victoria, p. 33.
2 'Sarah Stoddart', https://ballaratpubs.miraheze.org/wiki/Sarah_Stoddart, accessed 25 February 2021.
3 *The Star (Ballarat)*, 24 May 1858, p. 2.
4 *The Star (Ballarat)*, 24 January 1862, Supplementary to the Star, p. 1.
5 George Stoddart inquest file, VPRS 24/P0 unit 286, Public Record Office Victoria.
6 George Stoddart inquest file, VPRS 24/P0 unit 286, Public Record Office Victoria.

'the premises were not in good repair and were not sufficiently furnished'.[7] Sarah appeared again in the newspaper in November 1879 when she was charged under the Education Act for not sending her children Georgina and Robert to school for the required time. She was fined a total of 13 shillings or sentenced to seven days in prison.[8] Perhaps because of the recent trouble in Smythesdale, Sarah and her family moved to Portland, where she took over the Temperance Hotel in late 1879.[9] By 1882 she had returned to Ballarat and become the licensee for the City Hotel, opposite the School of Mines.[10]

In January 1889 Sarah remarried popular Ballarat local Joseph Flude. But it seems the marriage was not a happy one. Sarah's youngest daughter Bertha – known as 'Bud' – died later that year at the age of 18. In March 1892, just three years after their wedding, Joseph committed suicide in Lake Wendouree. He left two letters with his coat and hat on the jetty; one to his daughter Annie Flude and another to his wife, Sarah. The two letters, which were included in the inquest file, reveal a man who was tormented and determined to clear his name. To his wife Sarah, Joseph wrote that he was innocent of all she accused him of, which included 'shameful practices', adultery and deliberately pushing her down the stairs:

> ... you say that you want another husband, you can take one to yourself as I shall no more be yours, but because of your lying and blasphemous assertions I cannot see how you can expect to live in thorough amenity and love, even with your new husband.[11]

To his daughter Annie, Joseph wrote:

> ... beware how you receive Mrs Flude or her daughters hereonin [sic] and above all things do not open your mind too freely to them – the Stoddarts.[12]

Joseph's death was ruled as drowning by suicide whist of unsound mind.

A few months after her second husband's death, Sarah put the City Hotel up for auction and – interestingly – reverted to her first married name, Mrs Stoddart.[13] Not much is known about how she spent the next 16 years, but she was living in Hawthorn by the time she died in 1908. Newspapers reported her age at the time as 69. Sarah's body was transported back to Smythesdale, where she was buried.[14]

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7   *The Ballarat Courier*, 18 December 1878, p. 4.
8   *The Ballarat Courier*, 20 November 1879, p. 4.
9   *Hamilton Spectator*, 29 November 1879, p. 3.
10 *The Ballarat Star*, 5 July 1882, p. 3.
11 Letter to Sarah Flude from Joseph Flude, Joseph Flude inquest file, VPRS 24/P0, unit 593, Public Record Office Victoria.
12 Joseph Flude inquest file, VPRS 24/P0, unit 593, Public Record Office Victoria.
13 *The Ballarat Star*, 11 August 1892, p. 3.
14 *The Argus*, 22 August 1908, p. 13.

Elizabeth Symons
(née Pearce)

(c. 1841–1913)

ELIZABETH PEARCE was born around 1841. She married Oliver Symons in Helston, Cornwall, England in 1862.[1]

Elizabeth and Oliver had at least 12 children together between 1864 and 1881: Susan Ann (1864), Elizabeth Ellen (1866), William John (1867), Emanuel (1868), Thomas (1869), Rose (or Rosina) (1870), Leah (1872), Henry (1874), Lily (1876), Ellen Jane (1878), Clara (1880) and Albert Ernest (1881).[2] Susan was born in Cornwall, but the family had immigrated to Victoria and were living in Steiglitz (between Geelong and Ballarat) by the time of Elizabeth Ellen's birth in 1866.[3]

Oliver was manager of the South Greenock Company, and the family moved between gold mining towns. Thomas and Rose were born in Creswick, and Leah, Henry, Lily, Ellen and Clara were born while the family was living in Clunes. By the time Albert was born in 1881, they had moved back to Ballarat, living at 18 Howard Street.[4] The family suffered unimaginable tragedy throughout this period, with most of the children dying very young, at less than a year old. Just two, Susan and William, lived to adulthood.[5]

Oliver died at the age of 63 in 1903. By that time he was working as a wood merchant, and was also an active member of the Methodist Local Preachers Association.[6]

Elizabeth died suddenly on 4 April 1913 at the age of 72. She had been living at 6 Stock Street, Ballarat East, and was buried in the Ballarat New Cemetery. Elizabeth's son William John Symons, a Richmond tailor, was the only one of her children to outlive her.[7]

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1   England & Wales Civil Registration Marriage Index, 1837-1915, 1862.
2   Victorian Registry of Births, Deaths and Marriages. There may have been a thirteenth child, as there was an Elizabeth Symons who died at less than 1 year old in 1884 and was buried in the same plot as Oliver, Albert, Susan and Elizabeth (1866-1867). This Elizabeth's birth record has not been found.
3   England, Select Births and Christenings, 1538-1975; Victorian Registry of Births, Deaths and Marriages.
4   *The Australasian*, 24 May 1884, p. 23; Victorian Registry of Births, Deaths and Marriages; Ballarat Street Directory 1882.
5   Victorian Registry of Births, Deaths and Marriages. Note that a death record has not been found for Ellen Jane, born in Clunes in 1878.
6   Victorian Registry of Births, Deaths and Marriages; *The Ballarat Star*, 23 May 1903, p. 5.
7   *The Ballarat Star*, 7 April 1913, p. 2; Ballarat Cemeteries records; Elizabeth Symons probate and administration file, VPRS 28/P3, unit 354, Public Record Office Victoria.

Mary Winter (née Cowie)

(c. 1810–1894)

MARY WINTER was born Mary Cowie around 1810, most likely in Scotland.[1] By 1850 she was in Melbourne, where she married John 'Jock' Winter. Mary was John's second wife. His first wife Janet Margaret died in 1847.[2] John and Janet had four sons and a daughter. They established a family home on land just outside Ballarat called 'Bonshaw' after Janet's Scottish home.[3]

Mary and John had two sons. Thomas was born in 1851 and Adam in 1854.[4]

In 1863 John and Mary had a new home built for their family on their extensive sheep farm. The boundaries of their estate extended from Sebastopol to Burrumbeet and across to Brown Hill.[5] The new homestead was called 'Lauderdale' and the whole estate was sometimes referred to as 'Winter's Estate'. The impressive residence still exists in Alfredton today and is listed on the Victorian Heritage Register as a significant example of a residential complex of this era. Built out of bluestone with a slate roof, the single-storey homestead was home to Mary and John for the remainder of their lives.[6]

John and Mary were regular parishioners at St Andrew's Kirk on the corner of Sturt and Dawson streets and supporters of both the church and St Andrew's school. John made his fortune in both sheep farming and gold. He arrived in Ballarat a few years before the discovery of gold, but already anticipated the fortune that could be made through the farming of livestock. As the alluvial gold became worked out and miners moved further west, tensions rose between John and members of the mining community who wanted to follow leads onto his land. After careful negotiations and many letters and articles published in the local papers, a peaceful compromise was struck between John and the miners.[7] In 1862, he sold part of his estate to the Bonshaw Freehold Gold Mining Company for the staggering sum of £20,000 (the equivalent of over two million dollars today). John later sold more land to the Winter's Freehold Company for £50,000.[8] When he died in 1875, John specified that his Lauderdale estate be left to his wife Mary, 'with household furniture,

1   There are lots of birth records for Mary Cowie with a father named James Cowie, born in Scotland around this time and unfortunately we have not been able to narrow down which one is our Mary.
2   *Geelong Advertiser and Squatters'* Advocate, 13 July 1847, p. 2.
3   William Bramwell Withers, *The History of Ballarat: from the first pastoral settlement to the present time*, F.W. Niven & Co., Ballarat, 1887, p. 4.
4   Victorian Registry of Births, Deaths and Marriages.
5   *The Courier*, 3 September 2009, 'Historic Alfredton home on the market'.
6   'Lauderdale Homestead', https://vhd.heritagecouncil.vic.gov.au/places/67564, accessed 25 February 2021.
7   Doug Bradby, *The Astonishing History of Ballarat*, volume 2, Serious History Press, Buninyong, 2018, pp. 39-42.
8   *The Ballarat Star*, 24 August 1875, p. 2.

plate, carriage, etc., and with power to select any two of his carriage or buggy horses, harness, etc., for her use'. He also left her £100 for immediate use after his death and £300 to be paid quarterly. He left various sums of money and other real estate to his children.[9]

Mary continued to live at Lauderdale and left little on the historic record. Her stepson John died in 1877 just two years after his father, and her son Adam was tragically killed in 1881 by a fall from his horse.[10] In 1885 Mary appeared in the local newspaper after receiving an invitation to become an honorary member of the newly established Old Identities Association of Ballarat Association (which later became the Old Colonists' Association):

> It appears that the popularity of the Old Identities of Ballarat is not wholly confined to the sterner sex. Yesterday the secretary of the Association received the following communication: - Lauderdale, 31st October, 1885. Dear Sir, I received your letter, with rules and regulations of O.I.A and inviting me to add my name to list of honorary members of your benevolent association. With pleasure I comply with the request, and trust that many ladies may be induced to follow the example and the society prosper greatly ... yours truly, Mary Winter. [11]

Mary Winter died in May 1894 at the age of 85. She was remembered in newspaper obituaries through her connections to other well-known men, including her husband, sons and brother. She was also described as one of the earliest white women to settle in the Ballarat area:

> Mrs Winter, lady pioneer of Ballarat, and widow of the late Mr John Winter, owner of the celebrated Winter's Estate, died on Sunday, aged 85 years ... Mrs Winter was a member of the Old Colonists' Association of Ballarat, and, like Mrs Thomas Bath, was one of the comparatively few remaining lady pioneers of the early fifties.[12]

Mary was buried in the Ballarat Old Cemetery.

9   *The Ballarat Star*, 3 December 1875, p. 3.
10 *The Ballarat Courier*, 27 September 1877, p. 2; *The Ballarat Courier*, 22 April 1881, p. 2.
11 *The Ballarat Star*, 5 November 1885, p. 2.
12 *The Leader*, 2 June 1894, p. 39.

Mary Henrietta Allen (née Allen)

(1822–1901)

MARY HENRIETTA ALLEN was born in the town of Shepton Mallet in Somerset, England in January 1822, to grocer William and Eliza Allen.[1] She married farmer Charles Allen in the village of Milton Clevedon on 14 June 1854. Charles had also grown up in Somerset, in the nearby village of Evercreech, but it is unclear if the two (who shared a surname) were related.[2]

By 1862, Mary and Charles had immigrated to Victoria and were living on 70 acres of farmland at Learmonth. Charles owned a 'celebrated' Clydesdale named Clyde, which he advertised as a stud horse in the local newspaper.[3]

In July 1866, Charles auctioned off everything on the farm, including: 'Growing Crops, Draught Horses, Dairy Cows, Working Bullocks, Farming Implements, Household Furniture'. The notice in the newspaper reported that 'The sale is without reserve in consequence of Mr Allen's determination to relinquish agricultural pursuits'.[4]

The following month, Charles placed a notice in *The Ballarat Star* newspaper stating: 'I hereby certify that I will not be responsible for any further debts incurred by my lawful wife, Henrietta Allen'. Charles was also charged and convicted with drunkenness several times that year. On one occasion he appeared in court while:

> under the influence of drink, and conducted himself in a very insulting manner towards the bench, saying they could do as they liked with him, that they could take his life, and that he was more fit to be sent to an [sic] hospital than a goal.[5]

By November 1868, when Charles died at the age of 41, he and Mary were living at 40 Webster Street, Ballarat.[6] Mary was the sole beneficiary of Charles' estate. In January 1870, she advertised the Learmonth farm for lease and held an auction sale of 'general and useful household furniture and effects', including two pianofortes, from a large shop on the corner of Dana and Dawson streets, Ballarat. The auction notice stated that the sale was 'owing to Mrs Allen removing from the district'.[7] In April 1870, Mary faced charges of 'use and occupation' of a property, brought by John Dyke in Learmonth. She did not appear in court and was ordered to pay the outstanding money plus costs.[8]

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1 Somerset, England, Church of England Baptisms, 1813-1914, 1822.
2 1854 Marriage Record and Marriage Banns, Somerset; 1827 Baptism of Charles Allen; 1851 England Census.
3 *The Age*, 4 September 1862, p. 5; *The Ballarat Star*, 27 January 1869, p. 3; *The Star (Ballarat)*, 10 October 1862, p. 3.
4 *The Ballarat Star*, 21 July 1866, p. 3.
5 *The Ballarat Star*, 3 August 1866, p. 3 and 11 September 1866, p. 3.
6 *The Ballarat Star*, 5 December 1868, p. 2; Charles Allen probate, 1868, VPRS 28/P1, unit 18, Public Record Office Victoria.
7 *The Ballarat Star*, 26 January 1870, p. 3 and 27 January 1869, p. 3.
8 *The Ballarat Star*, 12 April 1870, p. 3.

Mary lived the remainder of her life a widow in what appears to be quite impoverished conditions. She joined the Old Colonists' Association and was mourned by her friends in the association when she died in 1901 at the age of 79. Perhaps she was one of the old colonists who was assisted in her aging years by the association. Mary was by that time living at 81 Doveton Street, Ballarat. She was buried in Dowling Forest Cemetery, near Miners Rest, with her late husband.[9]

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9   Victorian Registry of Births, Deaths and Marriages; *The Ballarat Star*, 19 October 1901, p. 8; Ballarat District Cemeteries Index, www.ballaratgenealogy.org.au/15-resources/359-ballast-district-cemeteries-index, accessed 8 March 2021.

Susanna Foot (née Reynolds)

(1828–1898)

SUSANNA FOOT was born Susanna Reynolds in 1828 to Thomas and Mary Reynolds. The family lived in Kent, England where Thomas worked as a weaver.[1] Susanna married John Foot in 1847.[2] They had two children, Richard in 1848 and Ellen in 1850, before they decided to try their luck on the Victorian goldfields.[3]

In 1852, Susanna, Richard and their young family boarded the *Emma Eugenia* in Plymouth. The Foot family arrived in Victoria in 1852. While they travelled as assisted migrants, they were not contracted to anyone for work but rather described as 'on own account'. John was working at the time as a blacksmith and both he and Susanna could read and write. Richard was 3 years old and Ellen was 1 year old when they left Plymouth.[4]

By the 1860s, Susanna and John were living in Ballarat. They went on to have eight more children, though three died in childhood.[5]

John was involved with at least two community-minded organisations: the Ballarat Old Colonists' Association, of which he was vice president for a time, and the Ballarat Benevolent Asylum, of which he was made life governor in 1885.[6] Tragedy struck the Foot family, however, in June 1886, when John drowned in a shipwreck off the coast of New South Wales. Seventy-one men, women and children drowned in the wreck of the *Ly-ee-Moon* and among them, it was believed, was John Foot.[7] John's body was never recovered and Susanna had to swear an affidavit that she believed her husband was deceased in order to release his will and probate records:

> On Friday the twenty eighth day of May last he informed me that he was going to Sydney in New South Wales the next day to arrange for purchase of fruit for winter use ... I have not seen or heard of my said husband since he left ... and I verily believe he is dead.[8]

1   England, Select Births and Christenings, 1538-1975, Ancestry.com.
2   London Metropolitan Archives, reference number P72/jn/010, Ancestry.com.
3   London Metropolitan Archives, reference number P93/ALL1/001; England, Select Births and Christenings, 1538-1975, Ancestry.com.
4   Register of Assisted Immigrants from the United Kingdom, VPRS 14, Public Record Office Victoria.
5   Victorian Registry of Births, Deaths and Marriages.
6   *The Ballarat Star*, 30 June 1886, p. 3; *The Ballarat Star*, 14 December 1885, p. 4.
7   Bill Brown, 'Mystery of the Ly-ee-Moon shipwreck', ABC Local, 29 May 2014, www.abc.net.au/local/photos/2011/07/05/3261634.htm, accessed 1 March 2021.
8   Affidavit of Susanna Foot, 23 June 1886, as part of will of John Foot, 1886, VPRS 7591/P2, unit 113, Public Record Office Victoria.

At the time of John's death, Susanna was living in Nelson Street, Ballarat East and would have had at least two children still living with her: 15-year-old Charles and 13-year-old Albert. Little is known of Susanna's life after John's death. She never remarried, so perhaps John had left enough money and assets to support his wife and young sons. Susanna may have found additional support in her adult children. We know that at some point in her later years, she moved in with one of her daughters in Abbotsford. It was there that Susanna died in August 1898. She was 70 years old.[9]

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9   *The Age*, 8 August 1898, p. 1.

Janet Hercules (née Gardiner)

(c. 1826–1902)

It is likely that JANET GARDINER was born in Old Monkland in Lanark, Scotland around 1826 and migrated to Sydney on the *Walter Morrice* at the age of 22 in 1849.[1]

Janet married John Hercules at Scots Church in Pitt Street, Sydney in 1852.[2] They had seven children together. By 1854, they were in Ballarat where John was mining for gold and their first two children were born: Rosa Letitia in 1854, and John Domenico the following year. Sadly, Rosa died at just 10 months. By the time Ferdinando Wallace was born in 1858, the family was living at Fiery Creek, but they had moved again to Beaufort by the time Alexander Le Bevillon was born in 1861. Rosa Letezea followed in 1862, Julian Gobbi in 1865 and James Gardiner in 1868.[3]

When John received his naturalisation certificate in 1865, it described him as a miner in Beaufort, who originated from Cattolica, Italy.[4] John's Italian heritage is reflected in the names of the couple's children.

John applied for 20 acres in the parish of Eurambeen – near Beaufort – in 1866, but by 1867 he was having trouble paying the rates on the land. He was declared insolvent in 1870 due to 'losses in mining and want of employment'.[5] By 1881, John was working as a farmer in 'Bungeeluke' or Bunguluke, Victoria when he again applied for insolvency, this time to a Geelong court.[6]

Little is known about Janet's life, but it would no doubt have been challenging to raise six children to adulthood while often struggling financially. Another more positive insight into Janet's life is that the Beaufort Agricultural Society awarded her a prize for her 'splendid honey, both in comb and jar' in 1872.[7] Janet was made a life member of the Old Colonists' Association of Ballarat in 1889, along with Sarah Smythe, who later left money to Janet in her will.[8]

Janet died in Ballarat East in 1902 at the age of 76. She was buried in the Ballarat New Cemetery.[9]

1 New South Wales, *Australia, Assisted Immigrant Passenger Lists, 1828-1896*, online database, Ancestry.com. Birth date estimated from age at time of possible immigration and at time of death.
2 NSW Registry of Births, Deaths and Marriages; 'Early Church Record Codes', https://nswtranscriptions.com.au/pages/eacodes.php, accessed 26 February 2021.
3 Victorian Registry of Births, Deaths and Marriages. Note that Janet's first daughter's name is alternatively spelled Rosa/Rose Letitia/Letizia.
4 Index to Naturalisation Certificates, Victoria, Australia, 1851-1928, Ancestry.com.
5 *The Argus*, 24 December 1870, p. 5; *The Ballarat Star*, 14 June 1867, p. 4.
6 *The Argus*, 19 October 1881, p. 7.
7 *The Ballarat Star*, 3 April 1872, p. 4.
8 *The Ballarat Star*, 24 June 1889, p. 4; Sarah Smythe will, VPRS 7591/P2, unit 256, item 62/919, Public Record Office Victoria.
9 Ballarat Cemeteries records.

Julia Irwin
(née Lawrence)

(c. 1842–1934)

JULIA LAWRENCE was born around 1842 to John Thomas Lawrence and Mary Lawrence (née Woods).[1] She married Henry Snell Vivian in Beechworth in 1868. He was a miner on the Spring Creek diggings at that time, but soon took on a career as a publican, first renting the Prince of Wales Hotel in Beechworth and later the Empire Hotel. Following Henry's death in 1877, Julia took over the license for the Empire Hotel, which was located in Camp Street, Beechworth.[2]

Julia was therefore well prepared for life as a publican when in 1879 at Christ Church, Beechworth, she married William Irwin, prominent Ballarat mining speculator and business owner. William was perhaps most well known as the proprietor of the Provincial Hotel in Lydiard Street, Ballarat, which he had established in 1854. Julia was William's third wife and became stepmother to several children. They had three children of their own, but only Harold Beresford Irwin, who was born in 1882, lived to adulthood. Julia and William's first two children – Hamilton and Julia – died in infancy.[3]

When William Irwin died in 1893, Julia was left as one of the trustees of her husband's substantial personal estate, valued at over £10,000. She continued to run the Provincial Hotel on Lydiard Street, which was described as containing 36 rooms, as well as a kitchen, laundry, 22-stall stable, and buggy sheds. As proprietor, Julia was said to be:

> a lady who is highly respected in every sense of the word, being an intelligent woman, possessing a knowledge of all that is requisite in the conduct of such a business, to which she adds a degree of refinement which is most acceptable to the large number of patrons who frequent this favourite house of call. Inside the rooms are furnished in a manner which plainly indicate Mrs Irwin's excellent taste, the whole of the appointments, including those of the dining tables, being almost perfect ... the public are to be congratulated upon their good fortune in having at their disposal such a well appointed and excellently managed establishment as the one described. Personally, Mrs Irwin is a lady of culture and refinement whom it is a pleasure to meet, and one who, during her stay in Ballarat, has gained a host of friends and patrons.[4]

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1 Victorian Registry of Births, Deaths and Marriages.
2 *Ovens and Murray Advertiser*, 30 January 1877, p. 2 and 6 December 1877, p. 2.
3 *The Ballarat Star*, 20 February 1879, p. 2; W. B. Kimberly (ed.), *Ballarat and Vicinity: a condensed but comprehensive account*, F.W. Niven & Co, Ballarat, 1894, p. 98; Victorian Registry of Births, Deaths and Marriages.
4 Kimberly, *Ballarat and Vicinity*, p. 98.

Though she was clearly highly respected, Julia twice ran into trouble with the law in 1895, when she was first charged with falsely affixing a trademark to a bottle of brandy, and later prosecuted for having her bar door open while repairs were carried out. She was fined £5. Julia was again charged with having the bar door open during prohibited hours in 1905.[5]

In 1908, *The Ballarat Star* reported that possible closure of the Provincial Hotel was being considered by the Licenses Reduction Board. While the 'old wooden building' with 40 rooms was 'clean, well furnished … well conducted', popular and 'in a splendid position, near the railway station', it was considered to be in 'dangerous condition'. Plans had been drawn up for a new building on the site two years before, but this was delayed due to a technicality with William Irwin's will. Numerous local police, business owners and dignitaries gave evidence at the hearing. Julia stated that if the hotel was allowed to remain on the site, 'rebuilding would be gone on with at once'.[6]

The hotel was allowed to remain, and in 1910 the new Provincial Hotel was opened on the site. By this time, Julia had married her third husband, mining manager Andrew Robertson, and the hotel license had been taken over by John Reid, who also owned Reid's Coffee Palace across the road.[7]

Julia was again left a widow on the death of her third husband in 1920. She lived another 14 years, to her early 90s. When she died in 1934, Julia was living in Armstrong Street, Ballarat. She left significant wealth, including real estate to the value of over £3,200 and personal property worth over £24,100. Julia bequeathed her property to her children and relatives, apart from various small sums that she gifted to 'Ballarat College for the advancement of education', St Andrew's Kirk in Sturt Street, and various other local charities and institutions.[8] She was buried in the Ballarat Old Cemetery, with her second husband William Irwin and their children.[9]

5   *The Argus*, 20 November 1895, p. 6; *The Age*, 1 January 1896, p. 6; *The Ballarat Star*, 20 April 1908, p. 3.
6   *The Ballarat Star*, 20 April 1908, p. 3.
7   Victorian Registry of Births, Deaths and Marriages; 'Provincial Hotel', https://ballaratpubs.miraheze.org/wiki/Provincial_Hotel, accessed 12 April 2021.
8   *The Argus*, 23 August 1934, p. 8.
9   Ballarat Cemeteries records.

Mrs M. K. Kelly

Unfortunately, very little is known about **MRS M. K. KELLY**. It is not even clear whether the initials 'M. K.' belong to her or her husband. Records show that there were many people with the name Kelly living in Ballarat from the time of the gold rush.

The rosette Mrs Kelly wears pinned to the front of her dress indicates that she was a member of the Old Colonists' Association. The lack of information about her life highlights how challenging it can be to find the stories of women and other marginalised people in historical records.

Mary Ann Morey (née Trickett)

(1835–1898)

MARY ANN (OR ANNE) TRICKETT was born 5 May 1835 in Haslingden, Lancashire, England to labourer Alexander and Mary Trickett.[1] By 1851, Alexander was working as a woollen weaver, while 15-year-old Mary and her mother were woollen felters.[2] At the age of 17, Mary immigrated to Victoria as an assisted migrant on the *Thames*, arriving in Port Phillip Bay in March 1853 after a 127-day journey from Liverpool. She was to be employed in the colony as a servant.[3]

Mary married Edward Morey on 25 June 1855 at St Paul's Church in Ballarat East. They had at least 17 children together between 1856 and 1879: Alexander James Edward (1856), James Henry (1857), Mary Ann (1859), Sarah Anne (1861), Robert (1862), William Thomas (c. 1863), Harry (1864), Thomas (1865), Edward (1866), William Thomas (1867), Maria (1868), Thomas (1870), Rosina (1871), Alice Jane (1872), Eveline Florence (1875), Ernest William (1877), and Charles Stanley (1879). Several children died young, before the age of one. By 1894, the couple had 11 living children.[4]

Edward Morey was a prominent figure in the mining industry and was a founder and director of (or had an interest in) many mining companies based in Buninyong, Carngham, Linton, Happy Valley and Sebastopol. The family lived in Linton, Lucknow and Happy Valley during the 1860s, before settling in Ballarat. Edward established a successful business supplying mining machinery and equipment, and also invested in land, purchasing large properties in Linton, Skipton, Pitfield and Maryborough, on which he mined gold and bred sheep and cattle. By the 1880s, Morey is said to have 'formed more companies for mining purposes than any other man in the colony, and has also taken out more mining leases than any other single individual'.[5]

In 1882, Mary, Edward, one of their daughters and other prominent Ballarat citizens 'paid a visit to the old world', travelling to Egypt, Italy, Germany, Austria, Switzerland, France, England, Scotland and Ireland. The Morey family then spent three months in America.[6]

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1 Lancashire, England, Church of England Births and Baptisms, 1813-1911, 1835.
2 1851 English Census.
3 Assisted passenger list, 1853, Public Record Office Victoria; *The Sydney Morning Herald*, 16 April 1853, p. 4.
4 Victorian Registry of Births, Deaths and Marriages; W. B. Kimberly (ed.), *Ballarat and Vicinity: a condensed but comprehensive account*, F.W. Niven & Co, Ballarat, 1894, p. 142; Ballarat Cemeteries records; 'Edward Morey', https://bih.federation.edu.au/index.php/Edward_Morey, accessed 9 March 2021.
5 *Kimberly, Ballarat and Vicinity*, pp. 140-141; Austin McCallum, 'Morey, Edward (1832–1907)', Australian Dictionary of Biography, National Centre of Biography, Australian National University, https://adb.anu.edu.au/biography/morey-edward-4243, accessed 9 March 2021; Victorian Registry of Births, Deaths and Marriages.
6 Kimberly, *Ballarat and Vicinity*, pp. 141-142.

Edward entered politics in the late 1880s and served a term as mayor of Ballarat from 1894 to 1895. Mary carried out the duties expected of her as mayoress, hosting elaborate balls, attending community events, and providing welcoming hospitality to visiting dignitaries.[7]

Mary died at the age of 63 in Ballarat on 27 July 1898 as a result of diabetes and 'after a lingering illness'. *The Age* described her as 'very popular throughout Ballarat and district' and noted that the flag at city hall was flown at half-mast the day after her death as a tribute of respect. Mary was buried in the Ballarat Old Cemetery.[8] The Old Colonists' Association reported that Mary and another 'lady member', Elizabeth Malyon, had died:

> They have worthily upheld the dignity of Ballarat, and they will be remembered through their children and children's children, as the mothers of a race which has contributed to the fame and fortune of Ballarat.[9]

From arriving in the colony as a teenage servant, Mary died having travelled the world and served as Mayoress of Ballarat. By the time she died, Mary also owned a significant amount of real estate. Some of these assets her husband had given to her as gifts and others she had purchased with her own money, which she made through mining speculations and shares in the Chalks Junction Gold Mining Company and the Ballarat Woollen and Worsted Company. Her real estate included the family home – a 14-room brick house ('Kentville') at 4 Lyons Street, Ballarat – as well as several weatherboard cottages in Main Street and Little Lyons Street (all leased), and 320 acres in the parish of Wonthaggi.[10]

7   'Morey, Edward (1832–1907)', https://adb.anu.edu.au/biography/morey-edward-4243, accessed 9 March 2021; *Geelong Advertiser*, 20 February 1895, p. 2; *The Ballarat Star*, 27 March 1895, p. 4, 17 May 1895, p. 3, and 9 August 1895, p. 4.
8   Victorian Registry of Births, Deaths and Marriages; *The Ballarat Star*, 29 July 1898, p. 3; *The Age*, 28 July 1898, p. 6; Ballarat Cemeteries records. Just two weeks after Mary's death, her son Ernest William died at home at 'Kentville' at the age of 21. He had suffered from heart disease as a result of rheumatic fever.
9   *The Ballarat Star*, 23 September 1898, p. 1.
10 Mary Ann Morey probate and administration file, VPRS 28/P0, unit 901, Public Record Office Victoria.

Susannah Morgan (née Stitfold)

(c. 1826–1905)

SUSANNAH MORGAN was born Susannah Stitford to Elizabeth and Thomas Stitford in England. She was baptised in January 1827 at Christ Church in Middlesex.[1]

According to one source, Susannah arrived in Australia in 1853 and in Ballarat later that same year, making her one of the earliest white women to arrive on the Ballarat goldfields.[2] She was reported to be highly independent and to have dug for gold herself on the Eureka goldfields in 1853.[3] It is unclear whether she married Matthew Morgan before arriving in Australia or afterwards, but there is no marriage record for the couple in Victoria or New South Wales.

We do know that by the time of the Eureka Stockade in 1854, Matthew and Susannah were in Ballarat, where Matthew was working as a tentmaker from premises in Main Road, Ballarat East.[4]

Susannah is one of several women rumoured to have sewn the famous Eureka Flag under which the rebels stood united in their fight against the government forces. Susannah and Mrs Oliver made a flag around this time. However, when an investigation into the origins of the Eureka Flag acquired by the Art Gallery of Ballarat took place in 1896, both Susannah and Mrs Oliver said that the flag they made was not the same as the one in the art gallery:

> The flag they made was to order, and they say it bore in the centre 'The Lone Star of Texas' and they think, but are not sure, 'The Stars and Stripes' in one corner.[5]

There are no records of any children born to Susannah and Matthew Morgan. Both remained in Ballarat for the rest of their lives, becoming involved with the local community. Matthew was one of the founders the Wesleyan Local Preachers' Association, a mutual aid organisation established in Ballarat in 1869. He was the first subscriber to the association, pledging £100.[6] Matthew also took on the role of a local preacher and was described at the time of his death as one of the 'oldest local preachers in the State'.[7] From 1866 Matthew

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1   Susanna Stitford baptism record, London, England, Church of England Births and Baptisms, 1813-1917, p. 95, London Metropolitan Archives, reference number p93/ctc1/006, Ancestry.com.
2   *Roll Book of Ballarat Pioneers*, Ballarat Historical Society, Ballarat, 1974.
3   Dorothy Wickham, Women of the Diggings: Ballarat 1854, Ballarat Heritage Services Publishing, Ballarat, 2009, p. 228; Roll Book of Ballarat Pioneers; 'Susannah Morgan', www.ballaratcemeteries.com.au/2019/05/24/susannah-morgan, accessed 3 March 2021.
4   Wickham, *Women of the Diggings*, p. 228.
5   *The Ballarat Star*, 1 May 1896, p. 1.
6   *Rules of the Wesleyan Methodist Local Preachers Association of Victoria, established 1869*, Spectator Publishing Co., Melbourne, 1898, pp. 4-5.
7   *The Ballarat Star*, 31 March 1903, p. 1.

and some other men began preaching and established the Ballarat Town Mission, which began outside the Charlie Napier Hotel on Main Street. By 1882 the mission had grown so much that it was able to purchase the site on which the old Charlie Napier Hotel stood (since demolished) and establish a residence where it planned to teach the 'neglected half-caste and other children', as well as offering 'adult services in Chinese'.[8]

In their later years, Susannah and Matthew lived near the corner of Forest Street and Wendouree Parade, near Lake Wendouree. When Matthew died in 1903, he bequeathed everything to his 'dear wife Susannah'.[9] Susannah sold the house and all the furnishings, described at the time as a 'splendid assortment of household furnishings, cabinet organ and effects', and moved in with her brother Thomas Stitford in Main Road.[10] She died just two years later in 1905, aged 79.[11]

Susannah Morgan had become a life governor of the Old Colonists' Association in January 1888 and members of the Salvation Army and the Old Colonists' Association were in attendance at her funeral.[12] Susannah and Matthew were buried in the same grave in the Ballarat New Cemetery.[13]

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8   *The Ballarat Star*, 20 June 1882, p. 4.
9   Matthew Morgan will, 1903, VPRS 7591/P2, unit 346, Public Record Office Victoria.
10 *The Ballarat Star*, 28 January 1903, p. 4.
11 *The Ballarat Star*, 26 June 1905, p. 2.
12 *The Ballarat Star*, 7 January 1888, p. 4; *The Ballarat Star*, 27 June 1905, p. 4.
13 Ballarat Cemeteries records.

Margaret Ann Müller (née Greig)

(1845–1902)

MARGARET GREIG was born 27 November 1845 in the parish of Abbotshall, county of Fife in Scotland. At 3 years of age in 1849, she immigrated to Sydney, New South Wales on the ship *Agenoria* with her father John, mother Margaret, two older sisters Isabella and Agnes, and older brother John. Margaret's father was a farm labourer and baker, while her mother was a house servant.[1]

During the gold rush, the family moved to Ballarat, where John took up mining.[2] In 1866 at the age of 21, Margaret married Frederick Müller of Ellwangen, Wurttemberg, Germany. They had three children: Frederick Charles in 1867, John Greig in 1869 and Bertha Elizabeth in 1876. The family first lived in Wills Street, and then Sturt Street. Frederick had a business in Sturt Street as a hairdresser and an umbrella maker.[3]

A warrant for Frederick's arrest was issued in 1878, when a money-lender accused him of forgery. Newspapers reported that Frederick had suddenly disappeared from Ballarat, leaving 'many unsatisfied claims behind him'.[4] He was found to have 'absconded to Melbourne', and then to Sydney, before being spotted by a Ballarat resident and extradited back to Ballarat. A few months later, Frederick was sentenced to five years' imprisonment in the Ballarat Gaol after pleading guilty to four charges of forgery.[5]

According to one newspaper correspondent, the Ballarat umbrella shop was where 'the industry and skill of the wife made money for Müller, and for his extra domiciliary diversions'. But with his nefarious dealings now uncovered, 'the wife-widow and her shop were freed from the destroyer'.[6]

Margaret continued the umbrella business while Frederick was in gaol, opening a new branch in Bridge Street in 1881.[7] By the following year, the business had expanded further to Bendigo. A local newspaper reported that 'Mrs Müller, umbrella manufacturer, Pall Mall … having made a speciality of the trade, can supply umbrellas of all descriptions at the lowest prices'.[8] Frederick is listed as the rate payer of the umbrella shop in Pall Mall in

1 *New South Wales, Australia, Assisted Immigrant Passenger Lists*, 1828-1896, online database, Ancestry.com.
2 *The Ballarat Courier*, 2 July 1881, p. 2.
3 *The Ballarat Star*, 26 August 1867, p. 2; *Geelong Advertiser*, 31 October 1874, p. 3.
4 *The Argus*, 14 January 1878, p. 7; *The Age*, 14 January 1878, p. 3.
5 *The Ballarat Star*, 2 February 1878, p. 2 and 9 February 1878, p. 4; *The Age*, 9 February 1878, p. 7 and 18 May 1878, p. 5.
6 *Camperdown Chronicle*, 22 January 1878, p. 3.
7 *The Ballarat Courier*, 22 April 1881, p. 2.
8 *Bendigo Advertiser*, 6 October 1882, p. 2.

the mid-1880s, though newspaper advertisements referred to the 'Mrs Müller Umbrella Manufactory ... Look for the red umbrella'. In 1887 and 1888, the shop was in High Street, Bendigo under Margaret's name.[9]

Advertisements continued to appear in the local Ballarat newspapers, too:

> Mrs Müller, Umbrella and Fancy Parasol manufacturer, of Ballarat, notifies elsewhere that she is prepared to repair and re-cover umbrellas and parasols at the shortest notice. A large assortment of gentleman's walking sticks is always kept on hand.[10]

Frederick died in Ballarat at the age of 53 on 22 June 1890, after a brief illness caused by dropsy. The German Association in Barkly Street flew a flag at half-mast as a mark of respect.[11] Margaret and Frederick's two sons both died young, Frederick Charles as a result of croup at 2 years of age in 1869. John, a violin teacher who also worked in the family's umbrella business, died at the age of 22 in 1892.[12]

Despite these significant losses in her life, Margaret continued to grow her business. A publication about Ballarat published in 1894 provided a feature on Margaret, praising her business prowess:

> Mrs Müller commands a large and worthy enterprise, and supplies an article which invariably gives satisfaction. Too much credit cannot be given her for the quality of her parasol and umbrella, nor for the business tact which she possesses. It only needs a glance into her various establishments to recognise how well she succeeds. Her fine stock of umbrellas, suitable for all tastes and pockets, is well worth examination, and ladies are delighted with the fancy parasols which she produces.[13]

By that time, the business boasted three shopfronts in Sturt Street, Bridge Street and Lydiard Street:

> Each of these establishments has a varied and attractive assortment of the latest things in the umbrella and parasol line, and each has a highly respectable

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9   Bendigo Rate Books, 1884, 1885, 1887, 1888; *Bendigo Advertiser*, 8 June 1883, p. 3.
10 *Avoca Mail*, 17 July 1888, p. 2.
11 Victorian Registry of Births, Deaths and Marriages.
12 Victorian Registry of Births, Deaths and Marriages; *Bendigo Advertiser*, 25 January 1887, p. 2; *The Ballarat Star*, 11 May 1892, p. 2.
13 W. B. Kimberly (ed.), *Ballarat and Vicinity: a condensed but comprehensive account*, F.W. Niven & Co, Ballarat, 1894, p. 79.

appearance. The Sturt Street establishment is located in Lord's buildings, and altogether there are ten employees always at work. In the front are the showrooms, tastefully decorated by the articles which Mrs Müller manufactures. At the back manufacturing and repairing are done. The branches in Bridge and Lydiard Streets are arranged in a similar way ... Mrs Müller possesses no ordinary business capabilities, and with her hearty and urbane disposition the firm is sure to progress.[14]

Margaret closed the Lydiard Street business in 1901 and died at her home, 104 Sturt Street, Ballarat the following year at the age of 56. She was buried in the Ballarat New Cemetery with her parents, her husband and her two sons Frederick and John.[15] She left a personal estate to the value of £846 to her daughter Bertha Schlam.[16]

14 Kimberly, *Ballarat and Vicinity*, p. 79.
15 *The Ballarat Star*, 28 August 1901, p. 2; Victorian Registry of Births, Deaths and Marriages; Ballarat Cemeteries records.
16 Margaret Muller probate and administration file, VPRS 28/P2, unit 619, item 83/786, Public Record Office Victoria.

Mary Ann Ronalds
(née Harlow)

(1817–1895)

MARY ANN HARLOW was born on 12 January 1817 in the town of Longton in Staffordshire, England, to Benjamin and Fanny Harlow. She immigrated to Australia at the age of 32, arriving in Port Phillip Bay on 10 February 1849. On the same ship, the *Lord Hungerford*, was Alfred Ronalds and six of his children: Maria, Francis, Nathaniel, John, Charles and Margaret Jane. Alfred's wife Margaret had died two years earlier and he was on his way to making a new life for his family in Victoria.[1]

Mary and Alfred married later that year and settled in Geelong, where Alfred had established a business as a 'draftsman, engraver and copper plate printer'. They had four children of their own: Alexander in 1850, Mary in approximately 1853, Eliza in 1855, and Julia in 1858.[2] In early 1852, the Ronalds family set off for Ballarat, where they established a nursery at Lake Wendouree. The lake was known locally as 'the Swamp' and the nursery referred to as the 'Swamp Nursery' or 'Swamp Nursery Garden'.[3] The business did well in the local agricultural and horticultural societies' competitions and exhibits, winning prizes for its fruit, plants and vegetables.[4] Mary and Alfred's son Alexander later recalled that the nursery was on 6.5 acres 'facing the Lake where my father successfully experimented with all the commercial plants, shrubs, and trees ... He gave the first seeds, plants, shrubs, trees, and cuttings to start the Botanical Gardens'. Though Alexander would have been only around four years old at the time, he also remembered:

> ... seeing the soldiers sitting on the stumps at our backyard after the Eureka riot in December, 1854, helping themselves to a small keg of rum, which my mother placed there for them with eatables, and they helped themselves too freely and dirtied their pretty uniforms – white trousers and red coats.[5]

Alfred died suddenly at the age of 58 in April 1860.[6] Mary and Francis, Alfred's eldest son, quickly took over the nursery, advertising in a local paper less than a month later:

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1 Victorian Registry of Births, Deaths and Marriages; *The Argus*, 13 February 1849, p. 2; 'Passengers to Port Phillip from Southern England & Ireland 1849-51', www.portphillipdistrict.info/SE_and_I_Passenger_Lists_1849-51_022.htm, accessed 5 March 2021; 'Alfred Ronalds', www.sirfrancisronalds.co.uk/alfred.html, accessed 5 March 2021.
2 Victorian Registry of Births, Deaths and Marriages; Geelong Advertiser, 18 December 1849, p. 4; *The Argus*, 4 May 1852, p. 2; 'Alfred Ronalds', www.sirfrancisronalds.co.uk/alfred.html, accessed 5 March 2021; *The Ballarat Courier*, 14 November 1871, p. 3; *The Age*, 7 January 1895, p. 1; Newspaper article 'Early Ballarat' in 05.1560: Information on Alfred Ronalds, Ballarat Historical Society collection, courtesy of Sovereign Hill Museums Association.
3 Newspaper article 'Early Ballarat' in 05.1560: Information on Alfred Ronalds, Ballarat Historical Society collection, courtesy of Sovereign Hill Museums Association; *The Star (Ballarat)*, 26 November 1859, p. 3, 28 April 1860, p. 2, and 16 May 1860, p. 2; *The Argus*, 25 June 1860, p. 7.
4 *The Star (Ballarat)*, 22 March 1860, p. 2.
5 Newspaper article 'Early Ballarat' in 05.1560: Information on Alfred Ronalds, Ballarat Historical Society collection, courtesy of Sovereign Hill Museums Association.
6 Victorian Registry of Births, Deaths and Marriages; *The Star (Ballarat)*, 28 April 1860, p. 2.

Mrs Ronalds & Son, of the well-known Swamp Nursery, beg leave most respectfully to return thanks to the inhabitants of Ballarat and surrounding district for their patronage and support bestowed upon the late Alfred Ronalds, and trust they may merit a continuance of the same. Plants will be exhibited for sale, and orders taken, every Saturday, at the Port Phillip Hotel, from 10 till 5 o'clock. Fruit and forest trees, flowering shrubs, seeds, &c., of every description, always to be had at this well known Nursery. Swamp, Ballarat.[7]

By January 1861, however, things had changed. Mary and Francis formally dissolved their partnership 'by mutual consent'.[8] As Alfred died without a will, Francis inherited his estate. Francis equally divided Alfred's two properties – the nursery, which included a house, and another smaller block with a cottage on it – between himself, his stepmother, Mary, and nine of his ten siblings. Maria was excluded as she was married by that time and 'sufficiently provided for'.[9]

Mary soon moved with her young children to the cottage, while Francis leased the nursery to J. Duncan, who took it on with his father as Duncan & Son. Francis subsequently sold his interest to Duncan, but the deed was framed to make it a conveyance of the entire estate.[10] In 1870, Mary and several of her children took Duncan, Francis and his lawyer to court, arguing that the transaction was void because Francis Ronalds owned only an eleventh share in the estate. The court found in Mary's favour.[11]

Mary later moved to South Melbourne and it is suggested that she ran an antique furniture shop in St Kilda during later life.[12] She died a few days short of her 79th birthday in 1895, at her home at 105 Clarendon Street, South Melbourne. Mary was buried in the Melbourne General Cemetery, without a gravestone or marker. Death notices printed in the local newspapers described her simply as 'A colonist of 46 years'.[13]

7   *The Ballarat Star*, 11 June 1870, p. 4; *The Star (Ballarat)*, 12 May 1860, p. 1.
8   *The Star*, 22 January 1861, p. 3.
9   *Illustrated News for Home Readers*, 22 April 1871, p. 7.
10 *The Argus*, 13 April 1871, p. 6.
11 *The Argus*, 18 May 1871, p. 1.
12 'Alfred Ronalds', www.sirfrancisronalds.co.uk/alfred.html, accessed 5 March 2021.
13 'Mary Ann Ronalds', www.findagrave.com/memorial/186190294/mary-ann-ronalds, accessed 5 March 2021; *The Age*, 7 January 1895, p. 1; *The Age*, 8 January 1895, p. 8.

Sarah Smythe (née Bennett)

(c. 1832–1896)

SARAH BENNETT was born around 1832. She married Walter Edward Smythe in Victoria in 1865.[1]

Sarah purchased land in Sturt Street, Ballarat in 1870. It seems likely that her husband Walter ran a store there, as he is listed in the 1882 Ballarat directory as a storekeeper at 290 Sturt Street.[2] Sarah was made a life member of the Old Colonists' Association of Ballarat in 1889.[3] She died on 5 August 1896 at the age of 64, and was buried in the Ballarat Old Cemetery. An obituary in *The Ballarat Star* described her as 'highly respected'.[4]

At the time of her death, Sarah was living at 2 Pleasant Street North, Ballarat West, in a weatherboard house that she owned. In addition to this property, she had £1,230 in the bank.[5]

Sarah made careful, lengthy stipulations in her will about how her estate was to be shared and divided up following her death. Newspapers reported with interest on 'A benevolent lady's curious will'.[6] Sarah asked that her estate be used by her trustees to:

> ... see me buried in a respectable manner in the Ballarat Old Cemetery engaging a hearse and two mourning coaches to attend my funeral and to pay the fare by cab of any friends who cannot be conveyed in the coaches, to put a railing round my grave and a headstone over it and I direct that my funeral is not to cost more than twenty pounds and not more than 100 pounds be expended over my grave.[7]

Sarah further directed her trustees to invest some of her money to produce an annual return to be used 'in keeping my grave in order and to keep a few flowers growing on it'. She left £150 for the construction of 'two brick cottages on the Old Colonists ground', to be directed by president of the Old Colonists' Association John Murray. To 'Walter Edward Smythe of Dunolly my adopted son' she left £30. She bequeathed donations to several local Ballarat causes: the Salvation Army, District Hospital, Benevolent Asylum, Female Refuge, and Orphan Asylum. To 'The Dawson Street Congregational Church Ballarat' Sarah left £30 'to assist the work of finishing the rear of the church', as well as £20 to settle any debts the church may have had, and £100 to the Congregational Minister the Reverend William

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1   Victorian Registry of Births, Deaths and Marriages.
2   *The Ballarat Star*, 14 June 1870, p. 4; Ballarat Street Directory 1882.
3   *The Ballarat Star*, 24 June 1889, p. 4.
4   Ballarat Cemeteries records; *The Ballarat Star*, 10 August 1896, p. 3.
5   Sarah Smythe probate, VPRS 28/P2, unit 447, item 62/919, Public Record Office Victoria.
6   *The Age*, 22 October 1896, p. 6.
7   Sarah Smythe will, VPRS 7591/P2, unit 256, item 62/919, Public Record Office Victoria.

Henry Lewis 'in part acknowledgement of his uniform kindness to me'. Among the many friends and family members she left money to was fellow member of the Old Colonists' Association, Janet Hercules.[8]

Sarah's husband is mentioned in her will only briefly. She ordered that her 'dwelling house' should be retained for 12 months 'if my husband requires it'. However, the house was sold the following year.[9]

8   Sarah Smythe will, VPRS 7591/P2, unit 256, item 62/919, Public Record Office Victoria.
9   Sarah Smythe will, VPRS 7591/P2, unit 256, item 62/919, Public Record Office Victoria; *The Ballarat Star*, 10 April 1897, p. 3.

Mary Ann Summerscales (née Hull)

(1851–1932)

MARY ANN HULL was born to shoemaker Joseph Hull and Christiana Hull (née Hudson) in the town of Crook in Durham, England in 1851. The family departed Liverpool on the *Tippoo Saib* when Mary was just 1 year old, arriving in Port Phillip Bay on 30 September 1852.[1]

The Hull family were living in Humffray Street, Ballarat when Mary married Henry James Summerscales on 20 March 1871 at the Primitive Methodist Church. Henry ran book and stationery shops in Bridge and Sturt streets with his brother Jonas.[2] The brothers and their families were close. When he died in 1881, Jonas left £50 bequests to his mother and sisters, with the remainder of this estate to go to 'my dear Brother Henry James Summerscales, whose kindness to me I can never fully reciprocate'. Mary's father Joseph Hull was one of the witnesses to Jonas's will.[3]

Mary and Henry had five children together, all born in Ballarat: Elizabeth Maude in 1872, Emily Isabel in 1874, Lillian Joyce in 1877, Herbert Henry in 1878 and Elsie May in 1884. Elizabeth died at the age of just 3 in 1875.[4]

The Summerscales' wholesale business was at 6 Sturt Street and the retail businesses were located at 62 Bridge Street and 161 Sturt Street. They were variously described as a 'novelty depot' and 'fancy warehouse', selling items from Christmas cards and inkstands to fire screens, jewellery and handbags, in addition to books.[5] The address 6 Sturt Street, Ballarat is also written on the back of Mary's photographic portrait. In 1887, Henry opened a 'Great Japanese Emporium' in the Edinburgh Buildings, Sturt Street, featuring 'the Cheapest and Grandest Show of the wonderful products of Japan'.[6]

In 1895, Henry leased land alongside the Ballarat Post Office at 102 Sturt Street (on the corner of Camp Street) and had a building erected there. From 1901 to 1965 the Ballarat library was located in the floor above the Summerscales' shop. The Summerscales building remains a key part of Sturt Street's striking heritage landscape today.[7]

1   1851 England Census; 1852 unassisted migration record.
2   *The Ballarat Courier*, 22 March 1871, p. 2; *Ballart Courier*, 11 March 1871, p. 4.
3   Jonas Summerscales will, 1881, VPRS 7591/P2, unit 458, Public Record Office Victoria.
4   Victorian Registry of Births, Deaths and Marriages.
5   Letter written by J. Summerscales, 90.00148, Sovereign Hill Museums Association; Ballarat Street Directory 1882 and 1888-9; Domestic Almanac 1889; *The Ballarat Star*, 9 December 1887, p. 4 and 1 April 1901, p. 5.
6   *The Ballarat Star*, 9 December 1887, p. 4.
7   'Ballarat Heritage Walking Trails', http://phoenixp12cc.weebly.com/uploads/2/6/6/3/26634243/walking_trails_brochure_2011.pdf; 'Ballarat Public Library', https://ballaratrevealed.com/tour.php?action=view_tour&tour_id=9; 'Ballarat's Historic Streetscapes', https://cms.visitballarat.com.au/app/uploads/2019/05/Ballarats-historic-Streetscapes-walking-tour.pdf, all accessed 5 March 2021.

By 1903 the family was living at 60 Sturt Street, and by 1909 at 106 Sturt Street, though it is likely that the street numbers changed over time. Electoral rolls describe Henry and Herbert's occupations as 'bookseller', while Mary and Lillian's were 'independent means', perhaps reflecting the family's comfortable financial situation. By 1906, Elsie was included on the electoral roll as a 'saleswoman'.[8]

Henry died suddenly at Sorrento on 5 February 1911 at the age of 64, after 'suffering from a heart affection for some time'. *The Weekly Times* reported that he had 'recently retired' from his stationery business in Ballarat, and his probate records reveal that he had sublet the premises, located at 106 Sturt Street, to his son-in-law (Elsie's husband) stationer Herbert Conrad Horsfall for a term of nine years from 1 November 1910.[9]

In his will, dated 1909, Henry appointed his wife Mary and daughter Elsie as executors of his estate. He directed that his business was to be sold, and that his 'Business Premises with dwelling attached to be let or leased'. Mary was to be paid £2 weekly out of his estate, with that amount to be reduced on the death of her mother. As it turned out, this would happen not long after – Christiana died in 1912 after a short illness, having recently celebrated the 60th anniversary of her arrival in Victoria. Mary's husband granted her an additional £20 per year 'for clothing'. Henry left a specific bequest of £90 'to our long time assistant Agnes Jane Pavarno', who was described as a 'Ladies Companion'.[10]

The balance of Henry's estate was to be invested until Mary's death, and then divided among their children. Lillian and Elsie were to receive greater shares than their siblings, as Henry explained:

> My family will understand why this division is just & fair – as Lillian Joyce and Elsie May, really carried on my business for many years before my death without adequate recompense and I always feel very grateful to them. I thank one & all for being as good & kind a family as any man could wish for & above all I thank our Heavenly Father for all his goodness to us all.[11]

Mary's role in the business was not mentioned, but no doubt she played an integral part in its day-to-day running, along with her daughters. She continued to live at 106 Sturt Street

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8 Electoral Rolls 1903, 1905, 1909.
9 *The Leader*, 11 February 1911, p. 41; *The Weekly Times*, 11 February 1911, p. 26; Henry James Summerscales probate and administration file, VPRS 28/P3, unit 191, Public Record Office Victoria.
10 Henry James Summerscales will, VPRS 7591/P2, unit 458, Public Record Office Victoria; Henry James Summerscales probate and administration file, VPRS 28/P3, unit 191, Public Record Office Victoria; *The Ballarat Star*, 24 October 1912, p. 2.
11 Henry James Summerscales will, VPRS 7591/P2, unit 458, Public Record Office Victoria.

following Henry's death, and the business was carried on by the family. By 1922 Mary had moved to 14 Maling Road in Canterbury, Melbourne, with daughter Elsie Horsfall and her family, including two grandchildren. They later moved to 47 Matlock Street, Canterbury and then 4 Byron Street, Canterbury.[12]

Mary Ann Summerscales died in Canterbury at the age of 81 on 30 June 1932. One death notice in a West Australian newspaper, likely placed by Mary's daughter Emily Kessell, who lived in Perth with her family, read 'One of the best'. Mary was buried in the Ballarat Old Cemetery with her daughter Elizabeth (1875), son Herbert (1920), husband Henry (1911), and brother-in-law Jonas Summerscales (1881).[13]

12 Electoral Rolls 1913, 1919, 1922, 1928, 1931; Victorian Registry of Births, Deaths and Marriages; Sands and McDougall Directory 1925.
13 *Western Mail*, 7 July 1932, p. 48; The Argus, 4 July 1932, p. 1; *The West Australian*, 2 July 1932, p. 1; Ballarat Cemeteries records.

GRACE VALLINS (NÉE SHANKLIN)

(c. 1831–1918)

GRACE SHANKLIN, or Shankland, was born in Scotland around 1831.[1] She married George Bain in Greenock, Scotland on 3 July 1850 and immigrated to Australia on the *Hurricane* in 1854. Her 1-year-old daughter, also named Grace, was with her, but not her husband. George travelled to Australia separately.[2]

Grace and George's daughter died at the age of 2 in 1855. They had three more children: Isabella Alexandra in 1855, William in 1857, and Nicholas in 1859, all of whom were born in Ballarat. George, a miner, died in 1858 at the age of just 32, when Grace would have been pregnant with Nicholas. She found herself widowed and alone in the gold rush town, with three young children to support. This loss was followed closely by another: Nicholas lived just six months. He was buried in Ballarat Cemetery in January 1860.[3]

The following year, Grace married James Vallins.[4] James had arrived in Ballarat from England in 1853 and was one of the first to commence gold prospecting at Sailors' Gully. He was later employed for 25 years as the city valuer, and was a prominent figure in the early development of Ballarat, taking a keen interest in the development of many local institutions. James was also interested in politics and ran unsuccessfully for election to parliament in 1900.[5]

Grace and James had three children together: Charlotte Elizabeth in 1862, James in 1865, and Rose in 1868. The family lived at 46 Ligar Street, Ballarat. Tragically, Grace lost another son in infancy when James died at 21 months in 1867. Her eldest son, William Bain, a teacher, also died very young at the age of 20 in 1878.[6]

James Vallins died at the age of 73 in 1904. A few years after his death, Grace presented a large picture of her late husband to the Old Colonists' Association of Ballarat. James had been one of the association's earliest members and a trustee.[7]

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1   1841 Scotland Census. According to this record, Grace was 10 years old in 1841. While the details appear consistent, this record does not match exactly with Grace's reported age at the time of her death (89 in 1918, which would mean a birth date of 1829).
2   Unassisted passenger lists (1852-1923), VPRS 947, Public Record Office Victoria.
3   Victorian Registry of Births, Deaths and Marriages; Ballarat Cemeteries records.
4   Victorian Registry of Births, Deaths and Marriages.
5   William Bramwell Withers, *The History of Ballarat: from the first pastoral settlement to the present time*, F.W. Niven & Co., Ballarat, 1887, p. 47; *The Ballarat Star*, 18 July 1904, p. 5.
6   Victorian Registry of Births, Deaths and Marriages; *The Ballarat Courier*, 13 May 1878, p. 2.
7   *The Age*, 14 Jan 1908, p. 8.

By 1905 Grace had moved to Barrys Reef, a small town near Blackwood, to live with her youngest daughter Rose Knight and her family. By 1909, the family had moved to Moonee Ponds. Grace died in her late 80s at 70 Wilson Street, Moonee Ponds, on 7 April 1918. *The Ballarat Star* reported 'Her death was an occasion of great sorrow to the surviving family and relatives'. She was remembered for her interest in the 59th Battalion 'on whose behalf she worked and assisted in every possible way'.[8] Grace's body was brought to Ballarat by train and met by 'many old friends' at the Ballarat West railway station. She was buried in the Ballarat Old Cemetery with her husband and two sons, James and William. Numerous floral arrangements were laid in tribute.[9]

In her will, Grace left her household furniture and effects to her daughter Rose, and the remainder of her estate was to be equally divided among her three daughters.[10]

8   *The Ballarat Star*, 10 April 1918, p. 1. Although this article refers to the 59th Battalion, it may have been the 39th Battalion – which formed in Ballarat – that Grace was involved with. One of the people who carried her coffin was from the 39th Battalion committee and that committee also sent 'a fine wreath' of flowers. See also the note above regarding Grace's age at the time of her death.
9   Grace Vallins will, 1918, VPRS 7591/P2, unit 580, Public Record Office Victoria; Moonee Ponds Electoral Rolls 1909; *The Ballarat Star*, 10 April 1918, p. 1.
10 Grace Vallins probate, 1918, VPRS 28/P3, unit 810, Public Record Office Victoria.