

The Cornish Association of Victoria Inc. Ballarat Branch

A.C.N. A0008 264A

Onen hag oll

October 2020 Newsletter

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Saturday 3rd October 2020 at 1.50 pm for a 2.00 pm start

Due to the current COVID-19 restrictions, our next meeting will be held as a Zoom Meeting. Following a meet and greet and short meeting, Di Christensen and Wendy Benoit will each share segments on two influential Ballarat identities - Josiah Pearce and William Hicks.

Zoom Link

<https://zoom.us/j/97877699814?pwd=ay92M2400HZ4K2IHSWtHdStqbElsOTO9>

Meeting ID: 978 7769 9814 Passcode: 835844

You can phone in using this number
(03) 7018 2005 Australia

Meeting ID: 978 7769 9814 and press # Passcode: 835844 and press #

Please feel free to join us.

Saturday 3rd/Sunday 4th October
DAY LIGHT SAVINGS BEGINS - clocks forward one hour

Saturday 10th October 2020 at 2.00 pm CAV Annual General Meeting

Please make sure you connect to the Zoom Meeting using the link below at least 5 minutes before the meeting start time (2.00 pm) to avoid any technical issues.

Papers for this meeting have been distributed by the CAV Secretary, June Whiffin.

Zoom link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88955436768?pwd=U1NuRExtYUJNZDdpMjUzcU9GZGIhUTO9>

Meeting ID: 889 5543 6768

Passcode: 327164

Or enter Zoom by Phone: (03) 7018 2005

Meeting ID: 889 5543 6768 and Press # Meeting

Passcode: 327164 and Press #

If you are unsure about the use of Zoom, feel free to contact Robyn or Arthur on 5339 1244 and they will assist you.

If you need a practice session beforehand, again please feel free to contact Robyn or Arthur.

Saturday 5th December at 12 noon

We are planning a casual gathering with a BYO lunch at the Eureka Stockade Gardens, 121 Stawell Street, Ballarat East at 12 noon.

BYO chair and lunch.

This of course may alter according to changes in COVID-19 restrictions, but please pencil this into your diary or add to your phone/PC calendar.

We are aware that this is the weekend of the anniversary of the Eureka Rebellion (3rd December 1854) and the venue may need be changed.

It will be wonderful to see as many as possible. Look for the flag of St Piran.

More details will be available in the next newsletter.

Normally meetings are held on the even months at Skipton Street Uniting Church Hall, cnr Darling and Skipton Streets, Ballarat.
Meetings begin at 2.00 pm and are followed by a shared high tea.



Eureka, Cornish, and the 1853 Goldfields Petition

I never expected that my Cornish ancestors would be amongst those involved at Eureka. I'd actually been looking for a rebel rousing Irish great grandparent or two!



Through passed down oral family traditions and history I knew my Ellis family had emigrated from Cornwall. I had accepted (without question) previous research that placed Peter Ellis and Nancy Robyns on the *Morning Light* disembarking at Port Phillip in the 1860s and subsequently settling at Daylesford, Creswick and Ballarat.

It was while entering the Treason Trial material (so kindly permitted for use by Public Record Office Victoria) on the Eureka Wiki that I found 'my man'. Imagine my surprise when I found my great great grandfather, Peter Ellis, as a witness at the Treason Trials in Melbourne in March 1855 for one of his Cornish mates, who was charged and arrested for High Treason (punishable by death) after the Eureka battle early on a Sunday morning on 3 December 1854!

His group had lived in Boscawell Row, St Just in Penwith, Cornwall, according to the 1851 Census and later writings, and were living on the Eureka Lead, Ballarat, Victoria Australia in 1854. Part of the group had travelled from Burra in South Australia while I have recently found a Peter Ellis on the *Marco Polo* in 1853.



More information can be found about this Cornish group at:

http://www.eurekapedia.org/Peter_Ellis

http://www.eurekapedia.org/James_Wearne

http://www.eurekapedia.org/Patience_Wearne

http://www.eurekapedia.org/John_Penrose

http://www.eurekapedia.org/John_Penaluna

http://www.eurekapedia.org/Henry_Read

I recommend for anyone with ancestors on the Victorian goldfields in 1854 the Eureka Wiki ([eurekapedia.org](http://www.eurekapedia.org)) is a fantastic research tool. Chances are that your ancestors may have been in Ballarat, Bendigo or Mount Alexander, all places renowned worldwide for the wealth of gold extracted there. They may be mentioned somewhere amongst the 6000+ pages of research on the Eureka Wiki.

Clare Gervasoni and I created and continue to maintain the Eureka Wiki that is being added to almost daily and has attracted nearly 9 million views. It is being used extensively in schools and by researchers.

The Wiki is hosted by Ballarat Reform League and assisted by the Vera Moore Foundation. We have been thrilled at the constant interest and information offered from descendants of people known to be associated with Eureka. Many folk descended from Cornish ancestors have contributed in many ways and we remain extremely grateful for their help. Many Cornish folk were involved in the Eureka Affair.

Their names can be found at

<http://www.eurekapedia.org/Cornwall> as well as many of their stories and biographical information. If anyone has information about ancestors at Eureka we would be delighted to hear from you. All material is referenced to those who contribute. For example, Charles Curnow Phillips born at St Ives, was one Cornishman found during our searches, and his relatives provided a photograph and information.

We are currently attempting the mammoth task of checking and entering the 5000 or so names from the 1853 Bendigo Petition onto the Wiki. We came across the name - transcribed as Crulmony - but when we checked could find nobody of this name anywhere in Victoria. It so happens that his name, after much research, was found to be Creelman. Further research showed he went into business with John Jones in 1865. Returning to the signatures on the Petition, the name John Jones appears five entries above that of William Creelman. He died in 1893 at Heathcote, after many years as a successful miner according to his obituary.

This is where the conundrum begins!

The Creelman story is but one of the 5000 stories from the names of signatures on the 1853 Bendigo Goldfields Petition that can be unravelled by detailed micro-historical and prosopographical research. It is the story of a 15 year old boy who was tried in Londonderry, Ireland, and transported to Tasmania for seven years in 1842. He married in Tasmania and made his way to the goldfields of Victoria. (1)

The story of this family is almost stranger than fiction.

William Creelman signed the Petition that was presented to Lieutenant Governor Charles Joseph LaTrobe on 1 August 1853 protesting about conditions of gold miners on the diggings, the high cost of licences and land ownership.

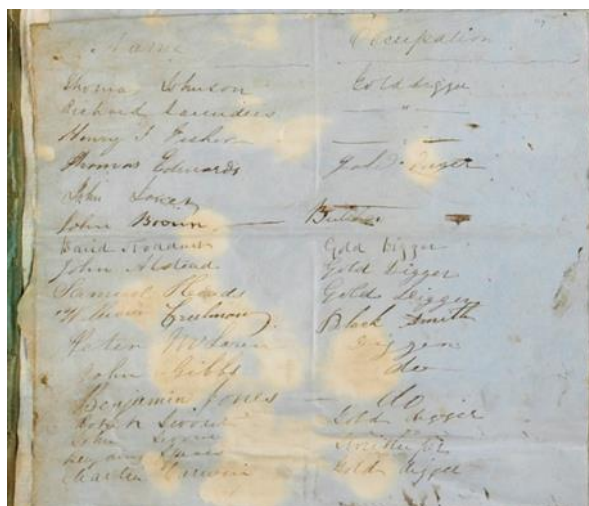
Agitation of the Victorian goldfields started with the Forest Creek (now Chewton) Monster Meeting in 1851, but what became known as the Red Ribbon Movement was centred around the Bendigo goldfields in 1853.

The Anti-Gold Licence Association was formed at Bendigo in June 1853, led by George Thomson, Dr David Griffiths Jones and 'Captain' Edward Brown. The Association focused its attention on the high cost of the monthly licence that miners were required to pay to the government.

They drew up a petition outlining digger grievances and called for a reduced licence fee, improved law and order, the right to vote and the right to buy land.

The petition was signed by diggers from Ballarat, Sandhurst (Bendigo), Mount Alexander (Castlmaine and Chewton), Mclvor (Heathcote) and other diggings.

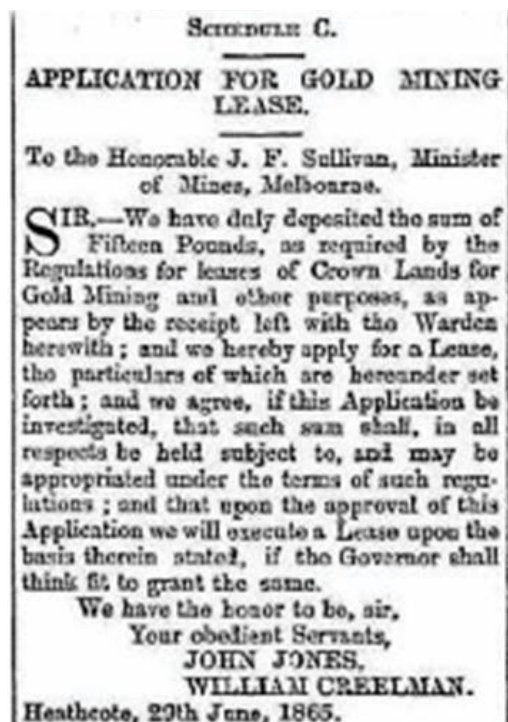
The 13 metre long petition was presented to Lieutenant-Governor Charles Joseph LaTrobe in Melbourne on 1 August 1853, but was totally rejected.



Monster Meetings were held throughout the Victorian goldfields, dissatisfaction erupted, agitators wore red ribbons on their hats symbolising their defiance of the law and prohibitive licence fees, and the agitations culminated on 3 December 1854 in a battle involving civilians, soldiers and troopers.

On first glance his name does not appear on the index or lists transcribed by volunteers at the State Library of Victoria where the original Petition is held. Some of the names were illegible, others were difficult and still others were easy to decipher, so it could easily have been transcribed wrongly. Among those names designated by transcribers to be difficult to decipher, and shown in square brackets, was the name of 'William Crulmony', a blacksmith, and the same occupation as William Creelman.

The signature of 'William Creelman Blacksmith' proved to be the transcribed as 'Crulmony'. Through further research Creelman was found to be in partnership with a John Jones in 1865. Checking back to the batch of signatures on the 1853 Petition John Jones' signature is only five names from William Creelman's so that they were known to each other 12 years before they went into partnership in a lease in a gold mine in mid 1865. This discovery allowed more information about Creelman to be found because of its date June 1865 and place 'Heathcote'.



William Creelman died in 1893 aged 65 years at Heathcote, Victoria, a town 40 kilometres south east of Bendigo on the Mclvor Highway. He was buried at the Heathcote Cemetery on 9 June 1893.

The Mclvor Times of the 8 June reported his death. This was a starting point for more research.

DEATH OF MR CREELMAN.-

We are sorry this week to have to record the death which occurred on Saturday morning last, of a very old resident of Costerfield, Mr William Creelman.

Mr Creelman had been connected with mines at Costerfield for a number of year as manager and engineer. He also took an interest in the mines. He had been ailing for some time, but last week he received a paralytic stroke, the cause of death being cerebral haemorrhage.

Mr Creelman erected the first machinery at the old and celebrated Costerfield mine. He floated the North Costerfield mine, holding about three parts of the interest in it, and conducted it as owner for about four years, and was also interested in mining at Heathcote. He afterwards went to Western Australia, and was manager of the Geraldine Copper mine there.

He was afterwards in several parts of Tasmania in mining business there.

In the opening of the Dark River Goldfield, beyond Beechworth, he went there to report on some of the mines, remaining about two months. While there he caught a severe cold in the head, resulting in inflammation of a membrane of the ear.

He was in Rushworth between three and four years, managing the well-known Phoenix mine there.

He afterwards went to the borders of Queensland, and was there some time, managing a gold mine.

He left there about twelve months ago and came home, and from the effects of the inflammation arising from the cold caught at the Dark River Goldfield, for the twelve months previous to receiving the paralytic stroke, he only enjoyed middling health.

The deceased who was aged 65, leaves a wife and family grown up to mourn their loss.

As showing the respect in which the deceased was held, the funeral, which took place on Sunday, was very largely attended, there being over 30 vehicles in the procession and a number of horsemen.

The remains were interred in the Heathcote Cemetery, the burial service being read by the Reverend Mr Finter.

At 15 years of age William Creelman (the convict) was tried in Londonderry, Ireland. He sailed from Dublin on 20 December 1842 on the North Briton, arriving on 4 April 1843 in Van Diemen's Land (Tasmania) with 178 other convicts (one had died on the voyage out). He married in Tasmania and had daughters there. Creelman's eldest daughter led what could be described as a colourful life, having multiple

relationships, murdering her lover, and dying an alcoholic in Sydney in January 1889.

BUT - is this the correct William Creelman?

One obituary states he was a native of America, and looking through the shipping lists there is a Creelman disembarking in Victoria from that country.

If anyone has information, please forward it to dot.wickham@gmail.com

Back to our convict's family.

Catherine Elizabeth Williams Creelman was born on 19 January 1852 in Hobart to William Creelman (alternative spelling Crellman) a Londonderry man, and Catherine Lowry (alternative spellings Gloury, Glowery, Lonry, Ryan) who were married on 7 October 1851 in Hobart.

(Yes, I have done the math!)

Catherine Elizabeth Williams CREELMAN married William WARREN in 1867 in Victoria. Catherine's second marriage took place on 13 January 1873 at Mudgee, New South Wales. On this date (as Elizabeth WILLIAMS) she married bigamously to Alexander Francis WILKIE who was about ten years older than her. They produced Alexander Perrell Wilkie (1873-1875), Grace Constance May Wilkie (1876-1956), and John Marshall Wilkie (1878-1884).

While still 'married' to Wilkie she had an affair with the Police Magistrate of Mudgee, John Oxley NORTON who was infatuated with her ... till he found her in the arms of another man James McGee.

And there lies another story!

Dot Wickham

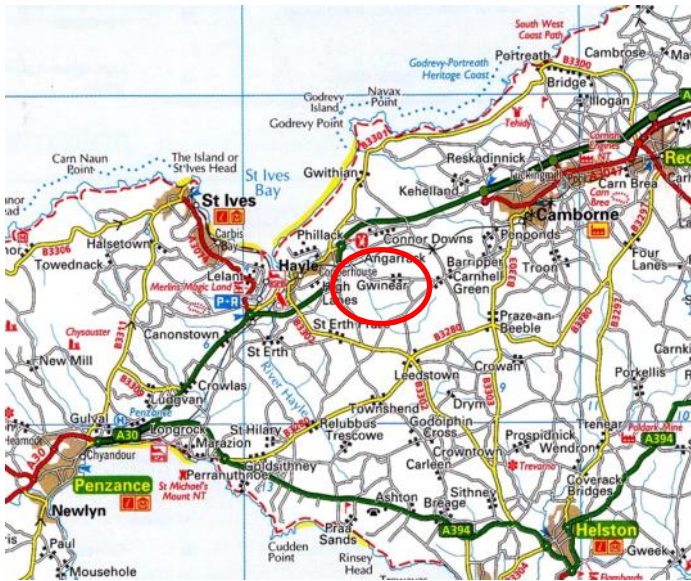
(1) Closely associated with social and cultural histories the micro-historical approach unravels the interaction between micro- and macro- levels of history. It uses individual biographical information, first hand accounts, reconstructs social networks, and tracks clues, to discover those hidden connections within events often challenging traditional views. The micro-historical approach may focus on an event, community or individual. Prosopographical research allows the patterns of relationships and activities to be uncovered through a collective study of lives such as those on the 1853 Bendigo Goldfields Petition. It has the advantage of being able to learn about patterns of relationships and activities through the study of collective biography.

A TALE OF TWO BROTHERS EDWARD and TOBIAS HAMPTON

This Hampton family, including the brothers Edward and Tobias, has been descended from James Hampton, born in the mid-1500s in Cornwall. James Hampton was listed in the Muster Roll of 1569 and his weapon was a bill. The bill man's main role was as a foot soldier and he wore light armour made of overlapping metal plates sliding on rivets. The bill was a hook, with a cutting edge mounted on a two-metre shaft with a spike at the other end.

It is suggested that the word "hampton" or "de hampton" means "an enclosure in a village" or "of a village." The word later applied to the name of those living within a hampton. One of the earliest written records of someone named Hampton was in the year 1166. Cardinal Wolsey built Hampton Court Palace, about a mile from Hampton Village in the County of Middlesex.

Let's jump a few generations to early 1800, when our two brothers were born to James Hampton and his wife Dorothy (nee Liddicoat) at Gwinear.



James and Dorothy had nine children before Dorothy's death in 1817, aged 40 years. James subsequently married Ann Rule a few years later and was the father to another son.

James was a blacksmith like many of his male family members before him (and after him), With many horses, carts and carriages as well as farming paraphernalia, picks, shovels and other mining implements and fishing bits and pieces, a blacksmith would have had steady work if he was a good tradesman.

Of the five boys born to James and Dorothy, one died as an infant and two of the others became blacksmiths like their father. The eldest son, Edward and the youngest son, Tobias were not blacksmiths but worked in the mining industry and both came to Australia.

All the children of this family were born in the Gwinear vicinity and baptised at Gwinear. Edward Hampton was born in 1802 and his brother Tobias in 1811.

Edward Hampton married Ann Elizabeth Jenkin on 5th September 1825 at Redruth. Edward and Anne had six children born between 1826 and 1837 at Redruth - several of the children had the name Jenkin as a given name. In both the census of 1841 and 1851, the family is living at Fore Street, Redruth and Edward is listed as an assayer. An assayer was a person who tested ores and minerals and analyzed them to determine their composition and value. One assumes he would have either undertaken training on the job with a good understanding of chemistry or perhaps trained at an educational institute. Edward is also listed in the Cornish directories.

All his six children are living at home with him and his wife in 1851 – three of their daughters are milliners and one is a dress maker; one son John is an assayer and the other son Edward continues the family tradition of being a blacksmith.

Sadly, his wife Ann dies in 1852 –her death was reported in the West Briton paper of January 1853 - *At Redruth on the 29th ult., the wife of Mr. Edward HAMPTON, assayer, aged 48 years.*

Edward and Ann's Children

- + Ann Elizabeth Jenkin Hampton married John Goldsworthy at Redruth, Cornwall and died in Ballarat
- + Jane Hampton married Francis Pascoe at Kooringa SA - he died in a mining accident at Frederick's Reef, Maryborough, Victoria - she died in Victoria.
- + John Hampton who died at Parkside in SA
- + Sarah Hampton married Henry Corey at Redruth Cornwall and then John Roberts at Kooringa in SA – she died in South Australia
- + Martha Jenkin Hampton married John Rogers Warren and William Anderson, both in SA – she

died in South Australia

+ Edward Jenkin Hampton

It is possible that the death of Edward's wife, Ann, prompted him and his family to settle in Australia.

Three daughters, Ann, Sarah and Martha, and the offspring of Ann and Sarah, arrive in Victoria in January 1857 aboard the 'Star of the East' as unassisted passengers.

No husbands travelled with them, so it is assumed that they had already travelled to Australia as there are more children born to them.

When and where the other family members arrived in Australia is still to be discovered but in 1857, the small mine-owned township of Hampton Town (near Burra) was supposedly named after Edward Hampton, so he must have been there for some time.

When his daughter marries in 1857 at Kooringa, he is listed as Assay Master, Patent Copper works.

Edward died on 14th April 1879 at Kooringa, SA. His death certificate shows he died of 'senile decay' - one description of senile decay - *the progressive loss of mental capacity that leads to dementia and personal helplessness - the majority of the cases so recorded were most likely Alzheimer's disease* - given what we know nowadays concerning exposure to toxic chemicals and that they can have a detrimental effect on a person's mental health, one wonders whether working with chemicals all his life hastened his death.

According to newspaper reports of his death, he is working for the England and Australian Copper Mining company at the time of his death in 1870. The English and Australian Copper Company was a South Australian based company, established in 1851 with smelting works at Kooringa. However, due to the reduced production of copper ore in the area, the company's Kooringa works suspended operations in 1869, and in 1872, a portion of the smelting plant and machinery was transferred to Newcastle in New South Wales.

Edward Hampton is buried at the Burra Cemetery.

Let's now look at Edward's brother Tobias. Like his brother he was born at Gwinear but nine years later in 1811.

Tobias married Elizabeth Hand in 1833 at Gwinear - she was the daughter of John Hand and Mary Edwards and had been born at Camborne in 1811.



According to the census of 1841, Tobias was a miner living with his family at Charlestown-St Austell and by 1851 Tobias was a copper miner at Gunnislake, a town on the banks of the upper reaches of the Tamar River.

Between 1834 and 1852, Tobias and Elizabeth had eight children - James, Elizabeth Ann, Mary Jane, Emma, John, Thomas, Ellen and Dorothy. However, only the first four of these survived past the age of seven - the last three children dying when aged a few days or months.

Sadly in 1852, Tobias's wife Elizabeth died - two weeks after the birth of the last child who had lived for one day. Her death certificate indicates that she died of peritonitis probably caused following the birth of the last child. One of their sons, John, aged seven, was drowned at Gunnislake, in the River Tamar, only a few months after the death of his mother in 1852.

One can only imagine the grief that Tobias experienced with the deaths of his last three babies, his wife and his seven-year-old son all within four years.

What an incredible tragedy it must have been for those four remaining children to lose their mother and their four siblings.

Unfortunately, though sad and traumatic, this was a very common experience and many families suffered the loss of spouses and children.

The death of both adults and children would have been an experience that all communities in that era knew all too well.

Tobias would no doubt have struggled emotionally and probably financially as he sought to support his family.

Any wonder they left for Australia.

On a happier note, his daughter Elizabeth Ann was married to David Buzza, in 1854 at Calstock, and David and Elizabeth along with her father Tobias and Elizabeth's siblings, James, Mary Jane and Emma travelled to Australia and are all listed in the *Biographical Index of South Australians* as arriving aboard *The Nile* in February 1855, having left Plymouth in November 1854 along with 300 other people.

The family landed at Port Adelaide in South Australia, but they all spent time in Victoria with the three single children marrying and staying there.

Tobias was in Ballarat in 1861 as he is mentioned in the Victorian Gazette and his two unmarried two daughters, Mary Jane and Emma both married on 25th July 1861 in Ballarat.

However, he was living in South Australia at Koorunga in 1864 when he married Jane Watts (who had been married and widowed twice before and after Tobias's death married again) and was working as a miner at Burra.

Tobias and Elizabeth's children:

+Elizabeth and David Buzza settled in Moonta - both were prominent in the Moonta Methodist Church.

David set up a grocery business in 1874 having worked in the mines at Burra, Ballarat and Moonta and he was also a councillor on the Moonta Council.

They didn't have any children.



+ Mary Jane married Benjamin Betts, a miner from Uffington Lincoln, and they lived in the Ballarat area and had eleven children. Mary Jane was the great grandmother of the late Glynis Hendrickson a CAV member from Ballarat.



+ James married Alice Lodge in Stawell. James was also a miner and he died as a result of drowning at Lake Wartook, near Stawell, whilst duck shooting and left his wife to rear six sons.

+Emma married William Coates – he too was a miner, who was born in Ipswich, Suffolk and died of pneumonia when his 13th child was only nine months old in Ballarat.



At least two of their daughters went to live with the Buzzas in Moonta.

Emma is the great grandmother of Arthur Coates.

And finally, what happened to Tobias?

Like his brother he too died at Burra – four years before Edward in 1866.

His death was as a result of a mining accident and is recorded in two South Australian newspapers found at the NLA collection of newspapers at TROVE.

Tobias died of suffocation and injuries received in a mining accident at Burra on Tuesday 17th July 1866: *the jury's verdict was that he was killed by stuff falling upon him whilst securing the 6-fathom level at the Burra Mine*

South Australian Weekly Chronicle (Adelaide, SA : 1858 - 1867), Saturday 21 July 1866, page 2

In another newspaper report we read:

A fatal accident occurred to an old and much respected miner, Mr Tobias Hampton. He and a man named William Toy were at work in the six fathoms level, re-timbering some old ground. They had got a set of timber partially fixed and in doing so had to expose four feet of ground and leave it without support. Just as deceased was about finishing the work and making all secure, the ground suddenly gave way, and a quantity of earth fell from an old drive, consisting of many tons, and completely buried him. His mate narrowly escaped. Every effort was made to relieve him, but as the rubbish took three hours to remove he was quite dead when found. The weight of earth dislocated his collarbone and right thigh, besides causing severe bruises on the head and other parts of the body.

The South Australian Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1858 - 1889), Friday 20 July 1866, page 3

Buried in the Burra Cemetery are the two brothers - nine years apart at birth and four years apart in death.

One suffocating in a mining accident at the age 55 and the other dying at 69 of senile decay.

Tobias, living the uncertain, physical and arduous life as a miner and Edward perhaps having an easier and more privileged life as an assayer.

Both dying thousands of miles from their birthplace at Gwinear in Cornwall where they had buried their wives and in Tobias's case also his four youngest children.

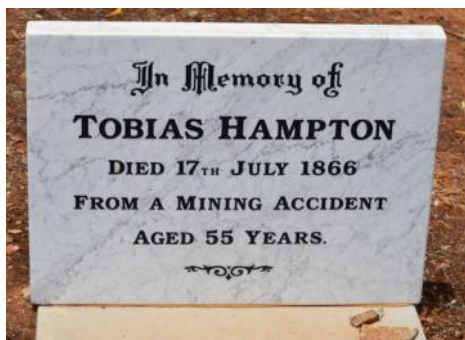
Both were separated from their siblings and extended families.

One wonders when they left Cornwall if it was their

intention to return to their homeland or whether they knew as they left their families, that they would never see them again or return to their birthplace. Both these men were fortunate in that they had their children with them and one assumes when they were both in Burra they would have had contact with each other and perhaps offered each other fraternal support.

Two brothers, one imagines, who were very different in their social standing in the community. Edward it would seem had led a fairly prosperous life supposedly having a town named after him, whilst Tobias had certainly faced more adversity than any of us would like to experience.

Tobias and Edward Hampton whose graves are almost back to back in the cemetery - one with a simple headstone provided by descendants and one with an elaborate headstone.



Sacred to the Memory of Edward Hampton Died Good Friday 1870 aged 69 years Many years Assayer to the ESA Copper Company



The Lord gave and the Lord hath taken away.

The tale of two Cornish brothers from Gwinnear ending in the town of Burra in South Australia.

Tobias Hampton is the great, great grandfather of Arthur Coates.

DRY STONE WALLS

Before lockdown restrictions came into force, Arthur and I visited Lismore, about an hour's drive south west of Ballarat.

It was a cold and showery day in Ballarat, but the weather improved as we drove south-west and we ended up seeing lots of sun.

It was a very scenic drive with open plains, plenty of

hilly outcrops with so many sheep and very little traffic which enabled us to take in the scenery. The dams were full and the areas under crop looked wonderful.

We had previously travelled through Lismore along the Hamilton Highway from Geelong but never from Ballarat and we had never meandered around the town itself.

As is my habit in any new town, I browsed the tourist information and I came across a pamphlet, *Dry Stone Walls in Corangamite*.

This caught my eye, as there are also many dry-stone walls in the Ballarat area and we had passed many on our journey.

I was even more surprised that Cornwall was mentioned as separate to England.

Quoting from the pamphlet (and the description could easily apply to the area around Ballarat): *The plains are dotted with dormant volcanoes ... the landscape is generally flat. Volcanic eruptions occurred in the relatively recent period between 20 000 and 4 000 years ago.*

The dry stone walls which are an integral part of the landscape ... provide a direct link to the Anglo-Celtic settlers of the nineteenth century.

Although most of the more substantial walls were built after the gold rush and after the introduction of the rabbit, there is evidence of dry stone walls ... from the late 1840s and early 1850s.

These were built to protect the cultivated paddocks, homesteads, livestock, crops and as a barrier against fires.

In the 1860s and 1870s, substantial and extensive walls were built by skilled craftsmen from England, Scotland, Ireland, Wales and Cornwall.

From the 1870s many pastoralists began to rebuild earlier walls in an attempt to make their properties rabbit proof.

Dry stone walling was a skilful craft which was often handed down from father to son, creating stone walling families.

For many Cornish Folk, it would have been a reminder of the Cornish landscape.

