

LANGSTON STREET IN FIFTEEN OBJECTS

A BRAC EXHIBITION

10 - 29 OCTOBER



BENDIGO
REGIONAL
ARCHIVES
CENTRE

LANGSTON STREET IN FIFTEEN OBJECTS



Welcome to Langston Street – as it's never been seen before.

At the Bendigo Regional Archives Centre, every day exposes incredible stories and remarkable people, and often where we least expect them within Bendigo's boundaries. As an example of just how much history is right beneath our feet, regardless of how sleepy we think our street might be, BRAC selected Langston Street – at random – to share with you and hopefully inspire everyone to explore the secrets of their own street or house.

Using the 2019 Heritage Festival's theme of 'Connecting People, Places and the Past', this exhibition shares just fifteen of the many fascinating stories unearthed in the BRAC archives and other local resources using relevant objects as a focus.

A summary accompanies each object, but a full story (with references and additional images) can be found in the Reading Room (hard copy for loan only), on the BRAC website and also linked to our Facebook Page.

We hope you enjoy the exhibition as much as we did putting it together, and feel inspired to visit the Reading Room to shed light on your own locale!

Situated just over a kilometre north of Charing Cross fountain, documented residences have existed in Langston Street since 1864, housing pensioners and miners in their humble huts, through to gentlemen in grand manors.

Regardless of their size, many houses in Langston Street carried a grand title and these have included 'Bryn Mor' (meaning Hill Sea in Welsh), 'Avon Lodge', 'Boston', 'St Ives', 'Basinghall', 'Kent Cottage', 'Cossackville', 'Langsdale', 'Tam Albyn' and 'Horonda House' which bears its name plate to this day.

Langston street was one of many across Bendigo which underwent a wholesale change of numbering in the 1950-60s, and indeed was reduced significantly when the stretch to the east of Hustler's Hill was renamed Michelson Street in 1938, after former Mayor and Bendigo

Advertiser Chief-of-Staff, John Michelsen.

The street itself was named for Augustus Langston, an English civil servant, initially involved in land development. Originally from Lancashire, Augustus married the French Clotilde Boucher in Switzerland before arriving in Australia in the 1850s. They resided in Bendigo for a time, where he served on the Hospital committee and was Treasurer of the Bendigo Waterworks.

The street housed a fire bell for a time, had its own football team, junior fire brigade team, members of the Sandhurst militia, and members of many fraternal organisations, including the Royal Order of Foresters, the Druids, the Australian Natives Association, the Rechabites, the Oddfellows.

NOTE on the exhibition: all research has been undertaken using resources freely available to all members of the public as a demonstration of how accessible history for the Sandhurst region can be. BRAC has a number of guides available to aid researching properties within the old City of Sandhurst-Bendigo boundaries as well as individuals that might appear in our records. The narratives presented are by no means conclusive or exhaustive and will hopefully inspire new, further research into the people and places discussed in the exhibition.

Thanks & Gratitude

- Bendigo Art Gallery
- Bendigo Family History Group
Bendigo Historical Society
- Bendigo Library Branch staff
- Bendigo RSL Museum
- Emma Busowsky Cox, Bendigo Art Gallery
- Dr Anne Holloway, Matheson Library, Monash University
- David Cotton, Bendigo Family History Group

¹ Public Records Office of Victoria, VA 2381 City of Bendigo, VPRS 16267/P1, unit 82, City of Bendigo Rate Book 1938, p74

² 127. COTTON, David, "Research June to August 2019", *Bendigo Genealogist*, Sep 2019, p7

³ HULL, Rita, *Origins of Bendigo Street Names: Book 1*, Bendigo, Australian Institute of Genealogical Studies, 2006, p36

DECKING OUT BENDIGONIANS SINCE WHENEVER

VARDEN



Ladies hat, c1920s

Possible raffia with silicone coating, lace netting, silk flowers
On loan from the Bendigo Historical Society collection

Sometime in the year after their marriage in 1876, William and Mary WHITEHAIR moved into 10 Langston Street where they would raise six children – twins Jose and Will, Jack, Vic, Mon and Tot.

The family were involved in rowing, with some of the children members of the Sandhurst Rowing Club¹, and Will took part in competitive walking², while Monica was a competent singer, taking solo performances at various benefits³. Jack was involved in a small teenage gang who were caught “throwing stones and mud at each other, using bad language and remonstrating with passers-by” and were charged in the Bendigo City Court and Jack was fined 5/- with a warning of heavier penalties if the behaviour continued⁴ – this seemed to have the desired effect as he doesn’t appear in the charge sheets again.

William’s career had been as a blacksmith and battery manager with George Lansell⁵ and son Will followed in his footsteps, also working as a blacksmith; his daughters all entered into retail trades and became well-known in their fields.

Victoria and Jose worked as saleswomen and Tot as a milliner for a variety of Bendigo stores, including Germann & Germann⁶, Cocking Stores, and Perl & Warren:

“Perl & Warren drapers have secured the services of Mrs Leggo to take charge of our Showroom and also Miss Whitehair as head milliner, who occupied the same position with Germann & Germann for many years”⁷

Will married local girl Violet Tickell in 1904⁸ and moved to WA but Jack, Vic, Jose, Mon and Tot remained with their parents at Langston street. In 1906 however, William died after having suffered lead poisoning some years prior but only stopped work a couple of days before his death. The living arrangements afterward, with all but Will remaining at Langston Street, continued for many years. The property at that time was described as a six-roomed weatherboard house valued at £250.

Tot in particular had an ongoing connection with the Bendigo Easter Fair – in 1916, her employer Warren's Drapery, donated a costume of gown, robe and crown for the winner of the Bendigo Easter Fair Queen competition. It cost the firm £23 and used 87 yards of velvet in making it; the crown – finished with gold velvet and a band of ermine and imitation pearls, diamonds and sapphires was made by Tot.⁹ The ensemble was on display in the draper's window in Hargreaves street and later photographed worn by her colleague and winning Queen, Dorothy Warren.



Mary passed away in 1922 and Theresa, Victoria and Josephine continued to live in the house. By the late 1920s, it appears that Will and his wife have parted ways – she takes work as a barmaid in St Kilda while in the early 1940s, William returns to 10 Langston Street; he remains there until his death in 1949. Josephine passed away in 1940, Tot in 1948, and finally 10 Langston Street passed out of the hands of the Whitehair family in 1957 upon Vic's death.

¹ Obituary, *Bendigo Advertiser*, 7 Feb 1906, p5

² Bendigo Easter Fair, *Weekly Times*, 30 Mar 1912, p23

³ Temperance Society, *Bendigo Independent*, 7 Aug 1912, p4

⁴ Tramway Question, *Bendigo Advertiser*, 11 Jul 1902, p2

⁵ Obituary, *Bendigo Advertiser*, 7 Feb 1906, p5

⁶ Messrs Germann & Germann Picnic, *Bendigo Advertiser*, 13 Nov 1902, p2

⁷ Advertising, *Bendigo Advertiser*, 18 Mar 1907, p4

⁸ Family Notices, *Bendigo Advertiser*, 26 Nov 1904, p4

⁹ The Elaborate Robe, *Bendigo Advertiser*, 8 Apr 1916, p8

THE PRODIGY

CHRISTIAN YANDELL (B. 1894)



***A Petition*, 1909**

Print, Bendigo Art Gallery

Original work location unknown

Sometime after the birth of their first child, Alexander James SCLATER, in 1906, Alex and Florence (nee Yandell) moved to Langston Street, where their second child was born. By 1909, Florence's sister Christian had come to live with them to be tutored under artist Hugh Fegan at the Bendigo School of Mines.

Christian's time at Langston Street, though brief, was very successful. In the July of that year, Alex wrote to the Bendigo Art Gallery committee about her piece, *A Petition*¹. The Committee, upon inspection, considered the work very meritorious and would hang the picture, remarking that Mr Fegan's student had unmistakable talent².

A Petition was described as depicting a Greek lady, accompanied by her slave at the shrine of Pallas Athene, the Greek Goddess of War at the time of invasion by Xerxes. After making a customary offering, the lady is petitioning the aid of the Goddess so that the Greek arms may be victorious³. It is said that the work was modelled on Florence.



Still only 14 years of age, Christian was described 'by competent critics' as a rising artist. In late 1909, an exhibition of two of her works 'created quite a stir in local art circles' and she was besieged by visitors anxious to inspect the pictures. *A Petition* and a new piece, which even Hugh had not seen, *A Lay of Thermopylae* were described as original works and 'remarkable for the accuracy of perspective, taste in colouring and shading. Her tutor was emphatic at the exhibition in saying that the undoubted ability of Christian should be publicly recognised by sending her to Melbourne and a meeting would be undertaken the following week to this regard.⁴

The Mayor made efforts to ensure that the works of the 'clever young painter' attracted due attention, and the chief secretary of the Masonic Hall obtained permission to dispose of the paintings by art union⁵.

At the same time, an exhibition of her works were on display in Singer's Depot windows in The Block, Collins Street to further promote the art union taking place.

With the proceeds, the family were able to move to Melbourne where Christian attended the National Gallery schools, studying under Frederick McCubbin and Bernard Hall, and won several student prizes⁶.

Christian married a fellow student and, as Christian Waller, she produced prints, book illustrations and stained glass designs, mostly inspired by art nouveau and medieval art. While not having children herself, in later life Christian took in her niece – Florence and Alex's daughter Klytie – who in turn became a notable artist in her own right.



¹ Personals, *Bendigo Advertiser*, 13 December 1913, p5

² Items Of News, *Mt Alexander Mail*, 21 July 1909, p2

³ Bendigo Art Gallery, *Bendigo Advertiser*, 6 July 1909, p4

⁴ Exhibition of Pictures, *Bendigo Advertiser*, 29 November 1909, p2

⁵ Personal, *Bendigo Advertiser*, 11 December 1909, p9

⁶ David Thomas, 'Waller, Christian Marjory (1894-1954)', *Australian Dictionary of Biography*, National Centre of Biography, Australian National University, published first in hardcopy 2002, accessed online 25 May 2019.

A GREAT GERMAN CONTRIBUTION

UNKNOWN



***Deutscher Verein Name Plate*, c1870**

Paint on glass, wood frame

On loan from Bendigo Historical Society

***Allen's Sweets No 17 L E Nagel*, c1931**

Trade card, Ink on paper

On loan from private collection

Georg NAGEL emigrated from Germany in 1848, first arriving in South Australia where he married fellow German immigrant, Augusta Carolina MEYER. The couple had several children in South Australia before moving to the goldfields in the late 1850s-early 1860s, where they raised their family of ten, three children having died in infancy.

Many of the sons and daughters moved interstate to WA, QLD and NSW as they reached adulthood and married, with Augusta, Dolph, Emma and Ernest the only four to remain nearby. In 1884, youngest son Ernest Alfred moved to Kangaroo Flat following his marriage to Elizabeth 'Lizzie' Faulkner, which took place at the Wesleyan Church in nearby Forrest Street. His sisters Augusta and Doris, also still living at Langston Street at that time, were bridesmaids in the wedding party.

Georg purchased the block from the Crown at the western end of Langston Street – between Wattle Street and Wattle Lane – in 1894. Georg was a well-educated man, speaking German and English fluently, and his passion for books was focused on European history, poetry, drama, ethnology and philosophy¹. Active in the local community, he was one of the sixteen men who founded the *Kranken Verein* (friendly society in support of sick German immigrants in Bendigo) in 1868² and which expanded to become the *Deutscher Verein und Leschalle* (Bendigo German Library), which as its height carried as many as 4,000 volumes of foreign and colonial newspapers and books³.

He remained a member until his death in 1906, variously holding the roles of President, Secretary, Assistant Secretary, Auditor, Trustee and Vice President. As President in 1874, he

oversaw what was reported at the time as the most successful anniversary ball ever held by the society. A white silk flag with gold fringing was unfurled for the first time at that event, featuring the name of the society in silk floss, bracketed by oak boughs and featuring a German and a Prussian eagle. Georg proclaimed, in German:

*"The flag which has just been unfurled is a symbol of unity and of the worth of honour and manhood. It is also a symbol of our desire to unite in friendly union. It is a symbol of unity because united we are strong... It is a symbol of worth of honour, of manhood, and of brotherly love; because they can only exist where every member endeavour to maintain his self-respect... It is the image of German aims, thought and desire."*⁴

In that same year, an illustrated address, along with a silver ink stand, was sent by the Verein to Otto von Bismark, congratulating him on the unification of Germany. Bismark responded with a letter of thanks for the address "equally distinguished by its work and by its picturesque and material reference to the historical culture of your new home", and a picture of the Prince and staff which was hung in the club's rooms at the Black Swan Hotel⁵. Upon reaching 25 years of operation on the Goldfields, the committee of the Deutscher Verein reported that in that time, over £5,800 had been distributed in member sick pay and funeral expenses, £2,700 on doctors and hospitals for members, and spent over £2,632 on the library itself⁶.

Georg was also involved in the Mines Accidents Prevention Bill and the Friendly Societies' Dispensary, acted as a German interpreter in the local Court⁷, chaired meetings of electors addressed by their various candidates, including former Mayor Lazarus⁸ and the then Dr Quick⁹. He had an interest in geology - in 1885 he made a donation to the School of Mines of quartz crystals, and samples of strontianite and other minerals¹⁰ - and showed Belgian canaries at the Bendigo Show¹¹.

Carolina passed away in November of 1905 and the cortege moved from the Langston Street address to the Back Creek Cemetery. After a scorching heat wave in the February of 1906, and after a reported lengthy mourning following Carolina's death three months before, Georg passed away at his home in Langston Street; the flag at the Deutscher Verein flew at half-mast¹². He was buried with his wife at Back Creek Cemetery.

The Langston Street property did not remain empty for long following Georg's passing, with youngest son Ernest, wife Lizzie and family – twins Lisle and Vernon and little sister Merlyn (or Merle), move in to the property. Ernest worked firstly as a foreman at the *Bendigo Advertiser*, eventually becoming overseer of the composing department and sports editor. He was also the first secretary of the Bendigo Racing Club at South Atlas, McIvor Road. Lizzie placed an ad in the *Advertiser* in 1909 following the loss of a gold pendant locket with two photos and gives the address 71 Langston Street, the first time numbering is applied to the address¹³. Across the next decade, it would be used several times in the classified section, primarily in the sale of horses – a bay thoroughbred mare "used to trams" and broken to saddle and harness¹⁴ and a fast mare by Hambletonian Bell Boy from a Thoroughbred mare¹⁵. The funeral of Ernest's brother-in-law Thomas Faulkner moved from the Langston Street property when the man died of miner's complaint (a silicosis or tuberculosis-like condition) at the Bendigo Hospital.

The outbreak of war saw many Bendigo men join the fighting in Europe and the Middle East, and Ernest's nephew William Nagel (son of eldest brother Charles) enlisted in 1915. Perhaps Ernest's children were inspired by their cousin to contribute what they could to the war effort? In the summer of 1916, Verne, Lisle and Merle (then aged 10 and 9 respectively), held an entertainment in aid of patriotic war funds at the Langston street home. In just four days, the

children had arranged a Wednesday night performance on a make shift stage decorated by flags loaned from The Beehive; the program consisted of songs, recitations, pianoforte selections, moving cinematograph pictures and a magic lantern slide show, lasting until 10:30pm. The crowd was mostly other children, who enjoyed fruit, lollies, ice cream and soft drinks during the interval. A total of £2/10/- was raised and given to the Advertiser for dispersal¹⁶.

During 1916, local Lily 'Girlie' Mackay recruited Merle along with 70 other local children to perform an Australian pantomime she'd written, called "Marjorie in Wonderland", to a packed house at the Princess' Theatre. The act collected over £110 in cash and in kind donations for the Fund which sent tins of fruit and vegetables to soldiers at the front. Merle wrote letters to go with the packages sent, and received this reply nearly a year later:

*"Palestine, 12 September 1917 – My dear little friend, I wonder if when you wrote the letter to 'a soldier friend' and enclosed it in the gifts you sent (the Fruit & Vegetable Fund) back in 1916, you ever thought they would go to this part of the world. They arrived here in splendid order – fruit, packets of soap, lollies and candles – which were meant to burn in a piano stand I guess but are doing good service stuck in a jam tin and I am writing a note by the light of one now. Miss Mackay must be a brick to work like you say she does for the soldiers, and you are all bonzars that took part in the work, for there must be a lot to do packing the gifts and writing, as well as training for your part in the pantomime and I only wish I could have been lucky enough to see it. We are camped near some of the places we often listened to our Sunday school talking about. I think if Moses was here now he wouldn't think too much of the dust and flies, and if the water he struck down in the 'waddy' and we have to drink was as brackish then as it is now, it wasn't worth bothering about. Well dear friend, if this war is not over soon I will be getting awfully homesick. I seldom let myself think of wattles, blue gums, fern trees and nice little Australian girls or I would pine. It is nearly three years since we left in the 1st AIF – six weeks more to go. But if it is three more and we are still away, I know for one, your kindness and everything Australian will never be forgotten. Well my little friend, I must close. My home is in Gippsland but my current address is HF Bolding, CQMS Camel Teams Corps Palestine, L of C, and we would be very pleased to get a letter from you and I will tell you more news next time. In closing I would like you to let Miss Mackay and all of our kind friends know how much the gifts were appreciated by the lads over here. Thanking you all on their behalf, your soldier friends send their best love and wishes, I remain your sincere friend, Frank Bolding"*¹⁷

In 1952, ex-British soldier Frank Faulkner wrote to the mayor of Bendigo explaining he had, in old papers, found a letter that came in a care package from a local girl and enquiring if she still lived in the district – the writer was Merle Nagel¹⁸!

Later in 1916, the children sent Christmas comfort parcels to soldiers in the 38th Battalion, and received a letter in response from Private James Robertson from Charlton who had been in camp at the Epsom Racecourse prior to shipping out:

"Somewhere in freezing France, 3rd February 1917 – Dear little friends, it gives me great pleasure to be able to write you a few lines in acknowledgement of a box of comforts which came from Sunny Australia from you two little heroes and which were distributed to the boys of the 38th Battalion today, and which were shared by myself and four other comrades, and on behalf of myself and others I thank you very kindly. It is a pleasure to receive a parcel from the old home and more so it cheers us up to think that the men, women and children think of us and appreciate that we are fighting for our rights. The weather is simply cruel here – one cannot keep warm; all that we see is front, snow and ice, in many cases from 6-9 inches thick. After washing your face and head by the time we dry and go to part our hair the comb will hardly go through as it is frozen. We have had a boys killed and wounded but we have been fairly lucky so far... I am not a Bendigonian but I resided the other side for years at Charlton. Well dear friends, it is too cold to write a long letter to you and the mail closes tonight and I have a few others to

A SHADOW OVER THE STREET

WARNING: THE FOLLOWING CONTAINS REFERENCES TO CHILD MORTALITY WHICH MAY BE DISTRESSING FOR SOME PATRONS



Child's cremation urn, 2018

On loan from Mulqueen Family Funerals, Bridge Street, Bendigo

The Australian mortality rate in 1907 for children aged four years or younger was 2,411 per 100,000 of population – in real terms, over 11,800 babies and toddlers died in Australia in that year; certainly, a far cry from modern rates (73 per 100,000 or 1,161 individuals). At the turn of the century and before – particularly on the Goldfields – rates were higher, and Langston Street did not escape the mourning of its smallest residents.

Esma Pearsall

Esma was the first and – in 1905 – the only child of Sam and Zoe Pearsall, who at that time lived in Langston Street. After their marriage in 1899, the couple lived in Barnard Street, where Sam worked as a carpenter but by 1905 had moved to Langston Street. It was here in the winter that little Esma, aged three-and-a-half, reached up to the mantelpiece and knocked down a kettle of boiling water upon herself, the scalds so severe that she died that night². Dr Eadie who treated the toddler gave the cause of death as shock and the coroner Moore waived the inquest³.



The funeral took place at the Bendigo cemetery with a large number of the Pearsall's friends in attendance⁴. A second child, Jack, was born the following year and shortly after, the family moved to St Kilda.

Esma is buried at the Bendigo Cemetery, with no headstone.

Ethel Smith

Fire was commonplace in the 19th century home – for cooking, for lighting and for heating; unfortunately this also led to common accidents and even death involving burns. Seven-year-old Ethel Smith was living at the house of Mrs Riley in Langston Street in 1895 and whilst there, stood too close to the fireplace, causing her dress to catch alight⁵. Ethel received burns to her chest, arms and face, so severe that despite being taken to hospital she passed away soon after; the coroner determined that an inquest was not necessary.

Ethel is buried at the White Hills cemetery but has no headstone.

Elvie Muriel DALE

For five-week old Elvie Dale in 1913 however, an inquest was determined necessary after her mother, Lilian, woke at 2:30am to find the little girl dead in her arms⁶. The death was reported to Constable Cormanby and an inquest was held at the house in 82 Langston Street (on the corner of Wattle Street) the following day. After taking depositions from Jack, Lily and Dr de Ravin, the coroner found death was due to suffocation from being accidentally lain upon.

The baby's father Jack, a miner, stated that the little girl had always been very healthy, and further deposed: "I was waked up about 2:30am by my wife calling that the baby was dead. I did not believe her at first but on further examination found it was so. I reported the death to the police at once. I am 22 years of age."⁷ Lily gave evidence that the baby was five weeks old and had been 'healthy always and never had any convulsions'. She stated that she had fed the girl a little after ten o'clock the previous evening and then was taken to bed with herself, Jack, and their two-year-old son Jack Jnr. She woke and found the baby lying on her arm, put her hand to her head and although finding her to be warm, and screamed to Jack that she was dead. Mrs Lane, who was staying with the family, was fetched while Jack went to report the death.

Dr de Ravin examined the child and found her to be well nourished, with healthy organs and with no marks of violence. He described the brain as 'congested' and the lungs engorged, finding the cause of death likely to an interference with the airway, though 'due to a convulsion or the child being overlaid, I cannot tell which'.

Elvie Dale was buried by William Farmer at the Bendigo Cemetery, her family invoiced for a coffin and coach, but no headstone was erected. Another daughter, Ida, was born and then Jack joined the AIF at the outbreak of war, but the family had drifted apart by this time, with Lily moving to Melbourne and Jack naming his sister as his next of kin; he was killed in action (refer *Lest We Forget* display).

Esmie Jean Golden Bell

Esmie Bell was only seven months old when she died in 1890⁸; her parents John and Susie lived at Cossackdale in Langston Street, with older brother Harry. Another child, Ronald, was born to the couple in 1892 but by this time they lived just around the corner in Wattle Street due to defaulting on the rent on the Langston Street property; the little boy also died

within a month of his birth⁹, the couple's misery no doubt compounded in that year by the loss of John's role as a drill instructor following the disbandment of the Sandhurst Cavalry Troop, and the subsequent successful civil action from John Fly to recoup the owed rent¹⁰.

Esmie is buried at the Bendigo Cemetery with no headstone.

Daisy Martin

Robert and Annie Martin moved to Bendigo from New South Wales around 1894 with several children and took up residence in Langston Street. In the winter of 1894, their daughter Daisy became ill but before Dr Eadie could arrive, the little girl passed away. He examined her regardless and recommended that as there were no suspicious circumstances, the police magistrate would not need to undertake an inquest. The order was given for burial¹¹.

Daisy is buried at the Bendigo Cemetery and is featured on a headstone.

Mary Jenkin

A Bible Christian with a talent for organ playing and a well-known Cornish hairdresser and miner, Matthew Jenkin lived in Ironbark (in the house that is now 19-20 Michelsen Street) with his wife Bessie and four children. The eldest was Matthew Jnr, followed by Mary, who died at ten months of age in 1885. Myrtle, born the following year whilst they lived in Langston Street, suffered the same fate in 1887 – also reaching the age of ten months but no more. Upon this second loss, the couple placed a death notice in the *Bendigo Advertiser*¹². One further son, Leslie was born the following year.

Mary is buried at the Bendigo Cemetery with no headstone.

Ada Cocking

Gustavus Cocking, a miner, with his wife Margaret and only son Gustavus Jnr, moved to Langston Street in 1880. Ada was the fifth child born to the couple, arriving in 1886 but within three weeks the baby girl had died¹³.

Gustavus himself died in 1894 but Margaret and the children continued to live in Langston Street, purchasing the house from Robert Carr in around 1899. Ada was not the first child Margaret would lose; her eldest son Gustavus Jnr, 17¹⁴, contracted typhoid fever. In his obituary, the *Bendigo Independent* opined:

*“The cause was typhoid fever, and as the unfortunate young fellow had, in going to and from his work, to pass one of the foulest of the unauthorised rubbish depots in Forest Lane, about which repeated complaints and remonstrances have unavailingly been made to the City Council and health officials, it is very probable that he contracted the deadly disease in this way.”*¹⁵

Gustav Jnr was described as a kindly, bright, intelligent lad with a ‘rare turn for mechanical contrivances’, and that his passing would both be a blow to his widow mother, with several small children, but had also been ‘a sad commentary on the city’s sanitary arrangements’.

Ada and Gustav Jnr are both buried at Bendigo Cemetery, though only Gustav is memorialised with a head stone.

William Charles Michael THOMAS

Typhoid fever, caused by bacteria spread through water and food, was not the only deadly disease to stalk Bendigo; Scarlet fever, or scarlatina, generally affected children, and exhibits as a sore throat and a rash which untreated can lead to bacterial infection of other organs – particularly the lungs and kidneys – and ultimate cause death. Occurrences of the highly contagious diphtheria disease were also recorded by the council Health Officer; the bacterial toxin would infect the upper airways of the patient and cause a membrane to block the windpipe, making it difficult and sometimes impossible to breathe, leading to suffocation.

One such fatal case of diphtheria was found in William Thomas, a four year old boy of 66 Langston Street in 1917 when his father Charles took him to the Bendigo Hospital after becoming very ill. The boy had been in good health until the Sunday night and by midday Sunday was suffocating; doctors attempted to clear his throat but to no avail and he died twenty minutes after admission¹⁶.

In 1932, a vaccine for this disease began to be used broadly in the community and within a decade, notifications, hospitalisations and deaths dropped dramatically; from around 900 deaths in William's era almost none through to the present day¹⁷.

There is no public record of William's burial.

Albert James DANIEL

Twins Olive and Albert were born in 1905 to James and Edith Daniel, who lived at the very end of Langston Street, backing the creek, in a house called Cornella¹⁸. Just a fortnight after the babies celebrated their first birthday, Albert fell ill and died; the couple had one further daughter, Elva. The family later moved to Forest Street.

There was no inquest, and no headstone where he is buried at the Bendigo Cemetery.

Olive le HURAY

Eight-year-old Olive lived at 90 Langston Street, at the west end of the strip, with her parents Thomas and Rose, and her five brothers and sisters. In 1908, a brief report of Olive's funeral appeared following her death, outlining the large cortege from Langston Street, and the presence of Rev Constable to conduct the service¹⁹. Natural causes are a likely reason for the death, as no other reporting appears and no inquest is recorded.

Sadly, Olive was not the only of the le Huray children who didn't reach adulthood. Previously, around New Year's in 1906, their younger son, Leslie, passed away at the tender age of five; in 1907 Alma, aged just four months, also died. After the death of Olive, later in 1908, Rose gave birth again, but perhaps the strain told and the baby boy²⁰ did not survive past two days. The family then moved to Golden Square. In 1917, shortly after Thomas had been repatriated from fighting in France (where he had served in the AIF with eldest son Thomas Jnr), youngest daughter Leontine, aged just four and three quarters, died and was also buried at the Bendigo Cemetery.

Only Thomas (1898-1935), Jean (1910-1975) and Sydney (-1988) survived to adulthood.

"Fairest flowers soonest fade"²¹

More Information

The exhibition *Death: The Last Taboo* featured at the Australia Museum (AM) in 2018 and a detailed catalogue and exploration of the processes surrounding death in Australia over time is available on their website:

<https://australianmuseum.net.au/about/history/exhibitions/death-the-last-taboo/>

¹ Table S2.2: Child (0-4) Death Rates 1907-2016, AIHW National Mortality Database, Australian Institute of Health & Welfare, Australian Government, 2018.

² Sad death from scalds, *Bendigo Advertiser*, 24 Jul 1905, p5

³ Fatalities and accidents, *The Age*, 25 Jul 1905, p6

⁴ Obituary, *Bendigo Advertiser*, 26 Jul 1905, p6

⁵ Death from burning, *Bendigo Independent*, 24 Jan 1895, p2

⁶ Records of suffering, *Bendigo Independent*, 23 Apr 1913, p5

⁷ Public Records Office Victoria, VA 2907 State Coroner's Office, VPRS 24/PQ/892, Inquest Deposition Files, item 1913/110 Elvie Muriel Dale

⁸ Deaths, *The Argus*, 7 Jan 1891, p1

⁹ Births, marriages and deaths, *Bendigo Advertiser*, 5 Mar 1892, p4

¹⁰ City police court, *Bendigo Independent*, 19 Oct 1892, p2

¹¹ Sudden death of an infant, *Bendigo Independent*, 25 Aug 1894, p2

¹² Death, *Bendigo Advertiser*, 10 Nov 1887, p2

¹³ Family notices, *Bendigo Advertiser*, 31 Jul 1886, p2

¹⁴ Family notices, *Bendigo Advertiser*, 11 Apr 1896, p7

¹⁵ Obituary, *Bendigo Independent*, 9 Apr 1896, p3

¹⁶ Diphtheria, *Bendigo Independent*, 24 Apr 1917, p6

¹⁷ Vaccine-preventable diseases fact sheet Cat No PHE236, *Diphtheria in Australia*, Australian Institute of Health & Welfare, 2018

¹⁸ Family notices, *Bendigo Advertiser*, 5 Apr 1906, p4

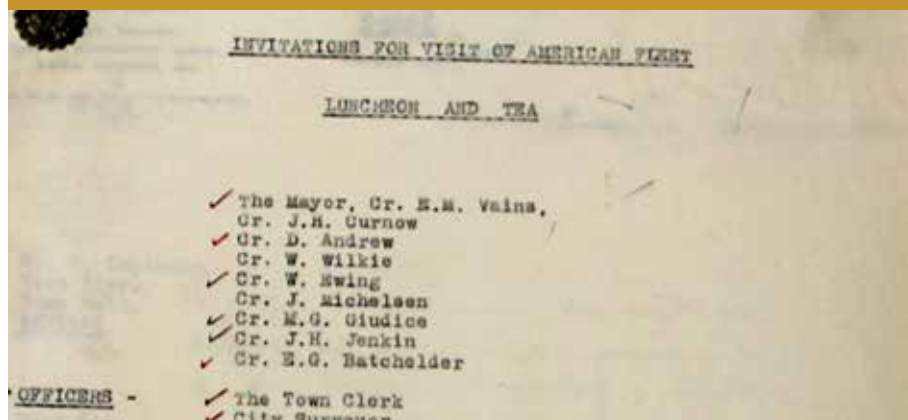
¹⁹ Obituary, *Bendigo Advertiser*, 31 Mar 1908, p3

²⁰ In memoriam, *Bendigonian*, 24 Oct 1918, p3

²¹ Ibid

THIS IS WHAT A FEMINIST LOOKS LIKE: 1925 EDITION

CITY OF BENDIGO



US Naval Fleet Visit Dinner Guest List, 1925

Ink on paper

Public Records Office of Victoria

VA 2381 City of Bendigo, 20th Century Inward Correspondence

In the Spring of 1884, a four-year-old Luke Clough was taken by his mother from their farm near Mitiamo to the Bendigo Hospital suffering paralysis (possibly polio), and was kept there for around five months¹; not long after this the whole family of Thomas, Jane and ten children moved to Bendigo.

Luke, who as an adult was quite lame in his gait², took the trade of bootmaker and kept a shop in View Street, even employing staff for a time, placing advertisements for an 'intelligent lad' to learn the trade, with 'constant work' available³. He made various types of shoes, using the latest technology – in 1906, he advertised the availability of tennis shoes with rubberised leather soles⁴.

In 1901, Luke purchased a house in Langston Street⁵, where his sister Emma, a tailoress, also lived for a time; another sister, Mary, moved into the grand *Horondo House* not long after with her husband, William. He was involved in the Church of England, giving addresses to various congregations⁶, and at this time was a superintendent of the All Saint's Sunday School⁷.

Luke's brother-in-law and neighbour, William Wilkie, served twice as City of Bendigo mayor, and perhaps there was some of his influence in Luke making the eventual step from social issues to politics. In 1904, he was appointed secretary of the Australian Workers Union (AWU)⁸, and several years later was elected the inaugural president of the Bendigo boot repairer's union⁹. As a selected Labor candidate, Luke stood for the Barkly Ward local elections in 1905, but without success¹⁰.

He was a founding member of the Bendigo East branch of the ALP and served as branch president¹¹; the Bendigo Independent described him in this role as statesmanlike¹², so no surprise that in 1915, when State representative for Bendigo East, Alfred Hampson, stood down in order to pursue a role in Federal politics, Luke was elected into the vacancy – by almost 300 votes over his Liberal opponent¹³.

Following his election, the *Bendigo Independent* was glowing in its praise for the new MLA:

“There is nothing obtrusive either in manner or oratory about Mr Clough. When he rises in his place, and is fortunate enough to catch the Speaker’s eye, it is at once known that the member for Bendigo has something to say that is founded on reasonableness and common-sense, and therefore worth listening to. The larger number of electors who voted for Mr Clough ... realised that while working at his shoemaker’s bench Luke Clough had kept his eye on the trend of public affairs. Of middle age, short and spare in figure ... Mr Clough has a quiet, pleasant style about him that commends itself to all to whom he becomes known. Whenever he accompanies a Bendigo deputation – and there are few that he misses – it at once becomes evident that Mr Clough is acquainted thoroughly with all the needs of his constituency.

*Ministers listen to him all the more attentively because he puts his case in calm, moderate, judicial and logical fashion. A quiet speaker like Mr Clough always commands more attention than the bombastic, blatant demagogue... He also has the respect and confidence of the leader of the Opposition (Mr GA Elmslie) just as he has the warm friendship of all his brother members.”*¹⁴

He appears to have been very busy as an MLA, securing Federal funds to clean and deepen Lake Weeroona¹⁵, supporting the Mayoress’ Blanket Fund¹⁶ (the Mayoress at the time being his sister Mary Wilkie!), took part in ANZAC day activities¹⁷, addressed Bendigonians about the high cost of living¹⁸ and for the anti-conscription movement¹⁹, and aided in conducting the Axedale Sports²⁰.

Luke cut his share of ribbons, including the buildings, verandah and quadrangle of St Aiden’s in 1920²¹ and campaigned about Land Tax Policy and its impact on farmers²², however he was not universally popular, with a poem published in the *Independent*, mocking him thus:

*“And then that chap who seems to have no guff, and says crook deals in land are merely stuff, I wonder if that could be Luke Clough?”*²³

The mild-mannered MLA with ‘no guff’ was nought to be seen at the Winter 1925 assembly, when The Speaker declared Luke ‘out of order’ in his comments about the upcoming visit by



the US Naval Fleet²⁴. Initially, he stated that he 'could not feel very enthusiastic about the visit of the American Fleet to Australia; a great naval or military display of strength had never yet been conducive to fostering feelings of world peace' but in particular took 'strong exception' to an article published that morning in *The Age*.

Titled 'Between the dances'²⁵, the piece ran with the by-line 'X' whom nevertheless describes himself as an American married to an Australian. He suggested in his article that girls could do more for the cause of international peace in ten days than the League of Nations in ten years through the 'amorous reciprocities of youth' than any trading or treaties, and that although the only interest in Australia for the sailors would be 'what sort of girls have you got?', that women should brush up on their American history and films. Australian girls, the author states, will be "a species of surprise packets" to the American men, and not have met girls of their type before; and that American men giving their money 'mostly to their wives' is a good quality in a husband. He concludes: "Probably neither Australia's daughters nor America's sailors need any advice as to how to become friendly with each other. Some things seem to come by nature."

BETWEEN THE DANCES.

Australia's Daughters and America's Sailors.

BY X.

TOMORROW our share of the approaching fleet will pass in through the Rip. As good Melbourne citizens we are making ready to minister to these war-ship Americans. When they are ashore we shall cater for their hunger, we shall, somewhat shamefacedly at first, quench their compulsory thirst; we shall give them balls and banquets; we shall provide them with beds and breakfasts. It is all very commendable; it will all

be very beautiful. But I happen to be an American married to an Australian. I make the first statement modestly, the second statement gratefully. I consider, however, that I am something of an authority on that male species of which 10,000 specimens will soon be crowding our streets. And I should like to offer my Australian wife's youthful sisters a tip or two that they may find of use.

Firstly, and with all due respect to the high falutin' that is sure to be talked, the solemn truth is there is only one Australian subject in which these American boys are really interested. It isn't a high-brow subject either. Every sailor of twenty-five years and under will only be shamming interest when we tell him

history. The two nations have points in common. But in my hand, you couldn't mention countries started from the same neck; but America off the track. It is so to say it is not disloyal to England on the throne of E time. He started to bully settlers. He was as it would be anyone who to bully Australian settlers. Americans were called Samuel Johnson was pretty He described them as "pirates who ought to be anything we allow them to do."

We have all agreed to things now. But, you know time there were types. England who talked pret about Australians. The I therefore feels that he is with the Australian girl or are national. Within a I sides will likely be making personal.

It may be that, between you won't talk history can be forgiven that, if I tend you know all about cause you patronise the weekly. Only a fool belie Wild West, except on the crossed a considerable are

Luke declared that this article was an open invitation to the girls of Melbourne to give themselves as a freewill offering to the sailors of the American Fleet; it was a shame and a scandal that a journal should publish such a thing – this caused something of a ruckus on the floor:

Mr Toutcher: Shame!

The Speaker, rising to his feet, declared Mr Clough out of order.

Mr Clough: I am certainly not going to withdraw the language that is used in this article, and I am not even submitting to your censure, Mr Speaker

Mr Beardmore: You should respect your sisters anyhow

Mr Clough: I do respect them, and I firmly believe that every woman in the State will resent the language in the article

Mr Beardmore: They will not put the interpretation on it that you did

Mr Clough: Even though the suggestion is veiled, it is in the article, and I raise my protest against it... In conclusion, I may say that I have been in the House sufficiently long to have heard honourable members, including even yourself, Mr Speaker, quote paragraphs from newspapers, criticize from them and draw inferences from them. I have no intention whatever, whenever I quote a paragraph in this House of hesitating to withdraw from it the inference that it suggests. I think it is a low down and scurrilous attack upon the womanhood of the State of Victoria²⁶.

The Fleet visit went ahead and the itinerary included a visit to Bendigo; citizens were asked to display bunting and those who owned cars were requested to 'place them at the disposal of the Visiting Squadron for sight-seeing around the city'. Luke appeared on the invitation list for the luncheon to be held in their honour, but has a cross placed next to his name on the schedule – was he removed from the invite list following his stance, or does the cross indicate he declined the invitation?

Luke retired sometime prior to 1949 and continued to live in Langston Street until he passed away in 1956; he is buried at the Bendigo Cemetery.

¹ Bendigo Family History Group, Bendigo Hospital Admissions, 1856-1938, Bendigo

² Mr LJ Clough, *Bendigo Independent*, 10 May 1916, p8

³ Advertising, *Bendigo Independent*, 20 Feb 1905, p3

⁴ Advertising, *Bendigo Independent*, 17 Apr 1906, p4

⁵ Rate book, electoral roll

⁶ St Paul's Brotherhood, *Bendigo Independent*, 12 Feb 1912, p6

⁷ Induction of All Saints, *Bendigo Independent*, 15 Mar 1901, p3

⁸ Bendigo & District, *The Argus*, 1 Oct 1904, p16

⁹ Bendigo Boot Repairers, *The Argus*, 11 Mar 1908, p8

¹⁰ Advertising, *Bendigo Independent*, 9 Aug 1905, p4

¹¹ Parliament of Victoria (2001), "Clough, Luke James", *Re-member: a database of all Victorian MPs since 1851*, Parliament of Victoria, retrieved 28 February 2016

¹² Mr Luke J Clough, *Bendigo Independent*, 2 Apr 1913, p3

¹³ Country news, *The Weekly Times*, 13 Feb 1915, p22

¹⁴ Mr LJ Clough, *Bendigo Independent*, 10 May 1916, p8

¹⁵ Lake Weeroona work, *Bendigo Independent*, 6 Mar 1915, p8

¹⁶ Blanket fund, *Bendigo Independent*, 13 May 1915, p4

¹⁷ Schools celebration – Bendigo East School, *Bendigo Independent*, 24 Apr 1916, p5

¹⁸ Today's events, *Bendigo Independent*, 12 Apr 1918, p4

¹⁹ Anti-conscription meeting Long Gully, *Bendigo Advertiser*, 24 Oct 1916, p5

²⁰ Eight Hours' Day Bendigo celebration, *Bendigo Advertiser*, 23 Apr 1918, p5

²¹ St Alden's Fete, *The Advocate*, 11 Nov 1920, p15

²² Bendigo East news, *The Argus*, 18 Oct 1920, p8

²³ Why Not?, *Bendigo Independent*, 14 Aug 1918, p7

²⁴ Strong criticism, *The Horsham Times*, 24 Jul 1925, p6

²⁵ Between the dances, *The Age*, 22 Jul 1925, p12

²⁶ Victoria Parliamentary Debates, Legislative Assembly Chamber, 22 July 1925, Vol 169, p280

FOUNDATION DENTISTRY IN BENDIGO

PERCY MOLE (B.1862)



Crown, bar and bridge work: with contour gold filling, 1893

Ink and gold leaf on paper published by JB Young, Bendigo

Travers Collection

Louis Matheson Library Rare Books Collection – Monash University Clayton

A medically progressive chap, dentist Percy Mole lived in Langston Street in the early 1890s before taking up acreage – Park View – at Marong. This was perhaps more suitable for a man who had a keen interest in horses: steeplechasers, showjumpers and hunters; Percy rode to hound with the Sandhurst Hunt (with his medical skill sometimes called upon throughout)¹ and his horses regularly competed at the Bendigo Show in both hunt and showjumper classes². Percy's wife Victoria Mole was seemingly well matched – a competitive horsewoman herself, also riding to hound³ and showing her grey in the Ladies' Palfrey classes at the Show⁴.

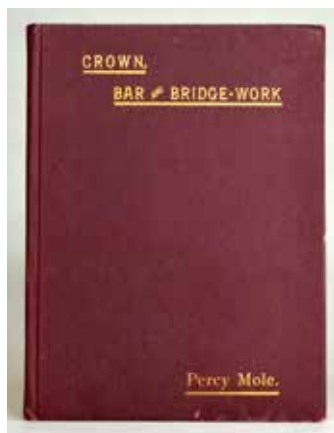
It is Mrs Mole that appears first in the Langston street, when she advertised for general help ("no washing") in 1895⁵; later that year, Percy is listed as occupier in the City of Bendigo Rate Books in Langston street⁶. Their home here was owned by the estate of James Hyett⁷, a builder who had built the brick house shortly before he died in 1889. It sat on the corner of Langston Street and View Lane (now Wright Street) and is currently known as #15⁸.

As a very well-known dentist, Percy also kept rooms in various parts of Bendigo from his arrival in 1887 when he immediately volunteered to be the Bendigo Hospital's first honorary dental surgeon⁹. His first practice took place in Thornton Lodge, Forest street where he advertised having brought with him from England "...all the latest improvements in dental appliances" and testimonies from former teachers and patients at the Birmingham General Hospital¹⁰.

In 1889, he took rooms in Pall Mall – "next to Balsilie & Fogarty's"¹¹, and later opened a further branch at Panton Street, Eaglehawk.¹² He also travelled for regular consultations, including the Commercial Hotel at Kerang¹³ and the Cumberland Hotel at Castlemaine¹⁴. In 1892 however, he took rooms in the newly renovated Sandhurst Trustees & Executors Company building, formerly the post office, in View street (and currently still in use by ST&EC). Percy's quarters were located in the central portion of the building, with four 'handsome, lofty rooms' which were well lit and had a wide, central hall opening on to the street. Others to take offices in the building included Crabbe, Cohen & Kirby solicitors, while Dr Colquhoun took consulting rooms and also leased the whole of the former postmaster's residence¹⁵.

It was in 1896 however, that Percy has his biggest impact on Bendigo. On the afternoon of September 10, Mayor Marks performed the opening ceremony of the new Bendigo Dental Hospital, at his rooms in View Street. Many of the city's prominent citizens were in attendance, including Mr J Sternberg MLC and several senior doctors¹⁶. The new Dental Hospital was attached to the Bendigo Hospital, where Percy had previously attended as honorary dentist but now could see patients in his own, specially fitted out rooms instead¹⁷. The Mayor declared the aims of the new institution to be 'very praiseworthy' and Percy responded thus:

*"... on becoming a citizen of Bendigo in 1887, he was much surprised at the want of organisation for the relief of the poorer classes of the community so far as dental matters were concerned. In July of that year, he offered his services to the committee of the Bendigo Hospital as honorary dental surgeon and duly received the appointment, which he was happy and proud to say he had retained to that day. He had for some considerable time thought over the advisability of establishing a dental hospital but his fear had always been that he should have a difficulty in obtaining the cooperation of the medical profession. He was happy to say however that on interviewing the honourable staff of the Bendigo Hospital, he met with the most cordial support, Dr Atkinson and McKee having consented to act as honorary physicians, Dr Hinchcliff and JD Boyd as honorary surgeons, Drs Peebles and Murphy as honorary anaesthetists. Mr Sinclair also kindly consented to act as honorary dispenser, which he (Mr Mole) believed he will eventually find no mean task. His aim in establishing this institution is that it shall in a short time become not only a benefit to the poor but also a training ground for the rising generation of the dental profession. He felt sure that if the citizens of Bendigo find that it is as necessary as he believed it to be, they will subscribe to the funds to establish it in premises of its own with all the skilled members of the profession giving their services to the relief of the suffering and the education of students, as it is essential that all dental students should have hospital training. The Birmingham Dental Hospital at which he was educated had a small beginning as the institution they were now opening but it has risen by degrees till now it boasts 20 operating chairs and all the latest appliances for fittings and crown and bridge work. There were also 15 honorary dentists and a large number of honorary members of the medical profession. The students treated during the last twelve months 19,274 patients, 2,722 of these cases having been gold or other fittings."*¹⁸



The Moles seemed to be civic minded generally, and took an active part in public life across the region. Percy is named as one of those prominent citizens who laid the foundation stone for the new Sacred Heart Cathedral, along with Archdeacon MacCullagh, the stock exchange chairman and the Marong Shire president¹⁹. In his capacity of Albion Co chairman, Percy and Victoria hosted the Minister for Mines and his entourage during their visit to Wilson's Hill, with toasts drunk in 'bumpers of champagne' to the health of the host and hostess, and investment in local mining²⁰. They attended several Mayoral balls²¹, with Victoria's outfit in 1891 reported in the newspaper:

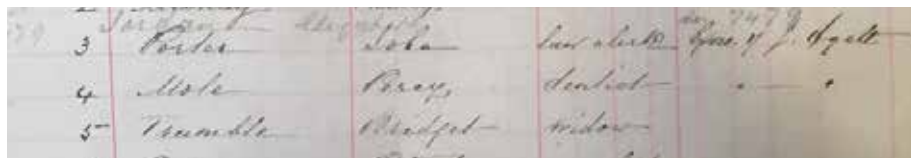
*"...Canary cashmere draperies caught up with jewelled butterflies, trimmed with gold embroidery and gold jewelled girdle"*²²

Percy was the president for a time of the Epsom Cricket Club²³ and contributed several years' service to the Marong Jockey Club as a steward²⁴, and donated cash prizes for the

children at the local sports²⁵, and samples of *reana luxurias* (teosinte) from his native Suffolk to the Bendigo Agricultural Society²⁶; Mrs Mole contributed parcels of clothing to an effort for the “distressed burnt out Gippsland settlers” after a bush fire in the summer of 1898²⁷, and parcels of periodicals for the Bendigo Hospital Christmas Fund²⁸. Daughter, Dorothy, also contributed to the appeal for toys for the Bendigo Hospital²⁹.

Horses appeared to be the Mole’s primary pursuit, though not always successfully – at the Marong Hunt, Percy was thrown from his mount on several occasions³⁰, on one sustaining a dislocated collar bone³¹. Perhaps this was due to his mounts’ temperaments rather than his ability: in a show jumping contest at the Bendigo Show in 1890, his horse Norman “came a cropper” at the 5’ bar, throwing his rider, a Mr Tyson, to the ground and making a “viscous kick” toward the man which barely missed³².

Perhaps it was bad luck also for two patients reported to have met death after a visit to Percy, in fact one died in the dentist’s chair – Alfred Vince, 14, son of a Bridgewater farmer³³, and Edward Clarke, 25, nephew of the Melbourne Stock Exchange chair, Mr RH Clarke³⁴. In 1894, Edward Clarke was taken to Dr Boyd with severe pains in the head and face, who immediately put him under chloroform and had Percy extract seven teeth, providing short term relief but after several days, doctors diagnosed an acute attack of pleurisy and within days he passed away. Dr Boyd’s chloroform itself was the issue with young Alfred; the boy’s mother made an appointment to have several teeth removed at her daughter’s house in Bendigo. In the inquest, it was reported that the boy had still been conscious of pain as the first tooth was removed; Dr Boyd administered a little more chloroform but when the boy was moved to a bed it was noticed he ‘looked as though he’d fainted’.



Both Percy and Dr Boyd tried artificial respiration, along with other techniques including applying nitrate of amyl, a magnetic battery, hot towels, a hypodermic injection of ether, brandy and massage, but all to no avail. The coroner found for heart failure consequent on shock but that it could not have been predicted³⁵; the boy’s mother was quoted as being ‘satisfied that the boy had been properly treated by the medical men’³⁶.

In 1893, Mole developed and had published the remarkable brochure – “Crown, bar and bridge work: with contour gold filling” (displayed). The booklet records methods of repairing the effects of decay, and is illustrated with what is believed to be genuine Bendigo gold leaf³⁷. The unique and innovative publication gained wide publicity, with promotion in a wide range of newspapers including the *Geelong Advertiser*³⁸ and the *Ballarat Star*³⁹.

The Mole family departed Bendigo for ‘the old country’ in the Autumn of 1898⁴⁰, and were subject of the local gossip column⁴¹, and several farewell dinners (one of the Marong Jockey Club⁴², and another from the Sandhurst Club, where many local medical men gathered and indeed, performed humorous recitals)⁴³. The large Marong property – along with its contents, which included a Collard & Collard piano and “a large assortment of modern art furniture” – was sold by auction without reserve⁴⁴. Percy’s practice was taken on by Dr H Hedley Ham⁴⁵, who was also appointed to the role of honorary dentist for the Bendigo Hospital⁴⁶.

Even from the Channel Isles, where they family removed to, the Moles kept in touch with the Sandhurst community – Percy kept up his subscription with the jockey club⁴⁷, and Dorothy

made a donation of £1/1 to the Bendigo Hospital Toy Appeal in 1898⁴⁸. Less than a decade later however, Percy's luck in the hunt ended when, following a fall during the Jersey Hunt, he developed a serious concussion and later that evening, died in his home of a haemorrhage⁴⁹.

BRAC would like to thank the Louis Matheson Library at Monash University Library for loan of this item from the Travers Collection.

- ¹ Sandhurst Hounds, *Bendigo Advertiser*, 5 Jun 1890, p3
- ² The Bendigo Spring Show, *Bendigo Advertiser*, 11 Oct 1895, p3; The Spring Show, *Bendigo Advertiser*, 17 Oct 1890, p3
- ³ Sporting notes, *Bendigo Advertiser*, 14 Aug 1890, p4
- ⁴ The Bendigo Spring Show, *Bendigo Advertiser*, 10 Oct 1895, p3
- ⁵ Advertising, *Bendigo Independent*, 10 Jan 1895, p3
- ⁶ PROV, VA2389 Bendigo (City 1891-1994), VPRS 16267/P1 Rate Books, Unit 39, 1895 Rate Book
- ⁷ PROV, VA2620 Registrar of Probates Supreme Court, VPRS 28/P2 Probate & Administration Files, Unit 271, 40/631, James Hyett
- ⁸ PROV, VA2389 Bendigo (City 1891-1994), VPRS 16267/P1 Rate Books, Unit 39, 1895 Rate Book
- ⁹ Bendigo Hospital, *Bendigo Advertiser*, 16 Sep 1887, p3
- ¹⁰ Advertising, *Bendigo Advertiser*, 23 Jun 1887, p2
- ¹¹ Notices, *Bendigo Advertiser*, 20 May 1889, p2
- ¹² No title, *Bendigo Independent*, 11 Oct 1892, p2
- ¹³ Dental, *Kerang Times*, 5 Feb 1892, p2
- ¹⁴ Items of news, *Mount Alexander Mail*, 8 Jul 1893, p2
- ¹⁵ Opening of new offices, *Bendigo Advertiser*, 30 May 1892, p3
- ¹⁶ The Bendigo Dental Hospital, *Bendigo Advertiser*, 11 Sep 1896, p2
- ¹⁷ The Bendigo Dental Hospital, *Bendigo Advertiser*, 12 Sep 1896, p5
- ¹⁸ The opening ceremony, *Bendigo Independent*, 11 Sep 1896, p4
- ¹⁹ Advertising, *Bendigo Independent*, 9 Jun 1897, p3
- ²⁰ Water for Wilson's Hill Marong, *Bendigo Advertiser*, 21 Nov 1896, p5
- ²¹ The Mayor's Ball, *Bendigo Advertiser*, 19 Jun 1889, p3; The Mayor's Ball, *Bendigo Advertiser*, 16 Jun 1898, p3
- ²² The Mayoral Ball, *Bendigo Advertiser*, 1 Jul 1891, p3
- ²³ Cricket, *Bendigo Advertiser*, 18 Sep 1890, p3
- ²⁴ Departure of Mr Percy Mole, *Bendigo Advertiser*, 7 Apr 1898, p2; Farewell Gathering, *Bendigo Advertiser*, 7 Mar 1898, p2
- ²⁵ Picnic at Leichardt, *Bendigo Advertiser*, 27 Nov 1897, p2
- ²⁶ Agricultural Society, *Bendigo Advertiser*, 16 Nov 1891, p4
- ²⁷ The forest fires in Gippsland, *Bendigo Advertiser*, 20 Jan 1898, p3
- ²⁸ Bendigo Hospital, *Bendigo Advertiser*, 27 Dec 1889, p2
- ²⁹ Toys for the hospital children, *Bendigo Advertiser*, 23 Dec 1896, p2
- ³⁰ The Hounds, *Bendigo Advertiser*, 28 Aug 1890, p3
- ³¹ Accident in the hunting field, *Bendigo Advertiser*, 11 Sep 1890, p2
- ³² The Spring Show, *Bendigo Advertiser*, 17 Oct 1890, p3
- ³³ Sad Death – Boy expires under chloroform, *Bendigo Independent*, 25 May 1896, p2
- ³⁴ Death of Mr EE Clarke, *Bendigo Advertiser*, 17 Dec 1894, p2
- ³⁵ Sad Death – Boy expires under chloroform, *Bendigo Independent*, 25 May 1896, p2
- ³⁶ Death in the dentists' chair, *The Argus*, 25 May 1896
- ³⁷ Travers, Richard – A Doctor's Delights: Discoveries from the Richard Travers Collection (Exhibition notes), Item 20, <http://www.monash.edu/library/collections/exhibitions/doctors-delights/virtual-exhibition/items/item20.html>
- ³⁸ Town talk, *Geelong Advertiser*, 7 Dec 1893, p2
- ³⁹ Publications received, *Ballarat Star*, 8 Dec 1893, p1
- ⁴⁰ Shipping intelligence, *The Age*, 13, Apr 1898, p4
- ⁴¹ Ladies' column, *Bendigo Independent*, 26 Feb 1898, p2
- ⁴² Farewell Gathering, *Bendigo Advertiser*, 16 Jun 1898, p3
- ⁴³ Departure of Mr Percy Mole, *Bendigo Advertiser*, 7 Apr 1898, p2
- ⁴⁴ No title, *Bendigo Independent*, 27 Nov 1897, p2
- ⁴⁵ Attention, *Bendigo Independent*, 12 May 1898, p2
- ⁴⁶ Dentist to the Hospital, *Bendigo Advertiser*, 21 Apr 1898, p2
- ⁴⁷ Marong Jockey Club, *Bendigo Advertiser*, 21 Nov 1898, p4
- ⁴⁸ Toys for the Hospital, *Bendigo Advertiser*, 23 Dec 1898, p2
- ⁴⁹ Fatal Hunting Accident, *Bendigo Advertiser*, 6 Feb 1907, p6

LANGSTON STEET LEISURE

MAKER UNKNOWN



French style hunting bugle, brass date unknown
On loan from private collection

Hobbies and sporting pursuits were wide and varied among the Langston Street residents. The garden was a popular place to be with prize winning poultry and roses featuring, while for the more active, football and running were the go-to sports but not always without complaint...

Musical tastes vary, and while Miss Maud Rymer's lessons in pianoforte and music theory at her home on the corner of Langston Street and View Lane provoked no objection¹, the bagpipes were not quite as popular, as this letter to the editor of the *Bendigo Advertiser* shows:

Sir – having read Mr JV Ryan's letter re piano practising, let me say right here that he has my heartfelt sympathy, but if he thinks he is the only one with racked nerves let him walk along Langston street any night as there are two brothers within a few doors of each other and when people are just going to try and snatch a few hours of well-earned rest, they start up with the ear-splitting, soul-revolting bagpipes, and parade up and down with the wind bags until the wee sma' hours and the neighbours have got to grin and bear it until the supply of wind gives out. If we had our choice of music we would prefer the piano, as you can shut your door and keep that out, but the bagpipes screech their way in everywhere. Hoping when the statute of public nuisances is brought up to date that bagpipes will head the list and thanking you for inserting this growl. Yours, etc, A Craver After Peace, Langston Street west.²

It is possible that the writer refers to the Quin family, who lived nearby each other in the street.

Similarly, grocer George Forrest found sporting practices on a Sunday to be an offence to Christianity:

Sir, I wish to draw attention to the disgraceful conduct of several young roughs, who it seems, think they have a perfect right to desecrate the Sabbath and do as they please on God's holy day, forgetting the divine command, "Remember the Sabbath day to keep it holy". There were fully 30 of these persons, ranging from small boys to young men who ought to know better, engaged in this pastime last Sabbath afternoon on the public road in Langston Street; also on the morning of

the same day. In justice to our law-abiding citizens and to our Christian population generally, this should not be. It is a common thing to see bands of young lads engaged in similar practices on our Christian Sabbath in this part of our fair city, and while we may not be able to put a stop to it as an occasional thing, I think our youthful lawbreakers should be made to remove their quarters from our public highways. Trusting the proper authorities will rise to the occasion and endeavour to stamp out once and for all this rising evil, and thus confer a boon upon the Christian public of Bendigo. Yours etc, GW Forrest³.

Football was a very popular pastime, with Langston Street even fielding its' own team through to the early 1900s, playing against other mine-based teams – such as Young Hustlers⁴ and Win Or Lose⁵ - at Pandora's Oval, now the Eaglehawk Hockey Club grounds.

The Marrow family, resident on the south side of Langston Street, between Forest Lane and View Street (the block where the modern-day Bendigo Corner Store Café sits), were involved in the Sandhurst Rowing Club (Charles being the captain in 1902)⁶. Dentist Percy Mole and his wife Victoria were keen horse riders, taking part in the Sandhurst Hunt and in the showjumper and Palfrey classes at the Bendigo Show.

More leisurely pursuits were popular with residents, with much time evidently spent in the garden.

Arthur Stringer lived at 70 Langston street (now 74 Langston St), a large block with a siding along Wattle Lane (now Acacia Street), and was a keen gardener but later developed an interest in poultry. A member of the Eaglehawk Rose Society⁷, Arthur cultivated mainly cactus dahlias and won champion dahlia on multiple occasions, including his own variety, a purple seedling named 'Mrs Charles Woods', at the Bendigo Rose Society Show in 1907 and a first class certificate at the Melbourne Dahlia conference⁸. He also grew ferns, and later, tea roses with which he had success at the Eaglehawk Horticultural Society Show, winning the champion exhibition with a salmon pink tea rose variety named 'Mrs Edward Mawley'⁹.

A small nursery sprung up on Arthur's property, and even hosted visits from the National Rose Society who gave demonstrations in pruning¹⁰. By 1913 however, Arthur's yard was set up for breeder and layer hens – primarily a large shed, several 7x10 runs, a small shelter, and a plot of Lucerne¹¹. He had approximately 100 chickens, and fed the chicks worms by hand each night, which he claimed gave them exercise 'which the chickens enjoy', a sight 'as good as any biograph show'. Arthur was one of a few Bendigo chicken fanciers to take part in the Burnley Egg Competition, held for many years at a site in Burnley Gardens, Richmond¹².

The ladies of Langston were also fond of leisurely pursuits beyond music, with Mrs Stringer a winner at the Bendigo Agricultural Show with her embroidery fancy work¹³, while next door neighbour, Dot Jordon, was a keen writer, taking a prize in the Children's' Chat writing competition run by the *Bendigo Independent*¹⁴. Several other children were published and won prizes in newspaper promotions – Ada Poulson, 12, won best letter with this submission in 1902:

"Langston Street, Bendigo, April 14, 1902

*Dear Red Riding Hood, It is such a long time since I have written I suppose you will think I have forgotten you. But I read the children's column every week, and there are so many nice letters that I did not like to write before. I have been to the exhibition twice and I had a ride on the tram each time. I liked it very much. I went down the model mine and it was very wet and muddy. Dear Red Riding Hood, I was 12 years old on February 27 last. I must now conclude with love to you and all the children in the cot. I remain your sincere friend, Ida Poulston (aged 12 years)."*¹⁵

The Beckham girls moved to Langston Street in the late 1930s when their teacher father,

Harold Beckham, was transferred from Bagshot to a central school. Both Betty and Nancy entered competitions in *The Argus* – in 1938, Nancy's poem 'Spring' was selected for a prize¹⁶ (she later became a teacher) while the following year, Betty, 12, won for her drawing, also titled 'Spring'¹⁷. The girls' mother died young in 1947 and both girls continued to live with their father in Langston Street, until Nancy married and moved to Melbourne; Betty worked in Bendigo as a tracer (copying maps and plans by hand for a drafting office) but later moved to Canberra to work as a civil servant.

Younger residents also took part in the Easter Fair procession in 1905, by way of the Langston Street Junior Fire Brigade¹⁸. Over 220 boys from eight junior brigades assisted in helping with the parade, with public subscriptions sought to provide lunch for the boys in exchange for their aid and participation. The 25 boys from Langston Street were described as 'an enthusiastic band of boy brigadiers', who produced for the parade a 'typical fire brigade display' worked in miniature with wood and flowers¹⁹.



¹ Eaglehawk news, *Bendigo Advertiser*, 28 Oct 1903, p6

² Advertising, *Bendigo Advertiser*, 31 May 1898, p4

³ An objection to the bagpipes, *Bendigo Advertiser*, 5 Feb 1910, p7

⁴ Footballing on Sunday at Ironbark, *Bendigo Advertiser*, 16 Apr 1896, p3

⁵ Football, *Bendigo Independent*, 26 Aug 1905, p5

⁶ Sporting notes, *Bendigo Advertiser*, 18 Jun 1884, p3

⁷ An aquatic carnival, *Bendigo Advertiser*, 28 Feb 1902, p2

⁸ Eaglehawk news, *Bendigo Advertiser*, 28 Oct 1903, p6

⁹ Bendigo Rose Society, *Bendigo Advertiser*, 18 Apr 1907, p2

¹⁰ Eaglehawk news, *Bendigo Advertiser*, 5 Nov 1906, p8

¹¹ Public notice, *Bendigo Advertiser*, 15 May 1907, p1

¹² With the poultry fanciers, *Bendigo Independent*, 4 Oct 1913, p9

¹³ With poultry fanciers, *Bendigo Independent*, 28 Sep 1912, p6

¹⁴ Horticultural and pastoral, *Bendigo Independent*, 5 Nov 1908, p3

¹⁵ List of writers for January, *Bendigo Independent*, 7 Feb 1914, p11

¹⁶ Letter competitions, *Bendigo Independent*, 10 May 1902, p7

¹⁷ Spring is Here, *The Argus*, 18 Oct 1938, p16

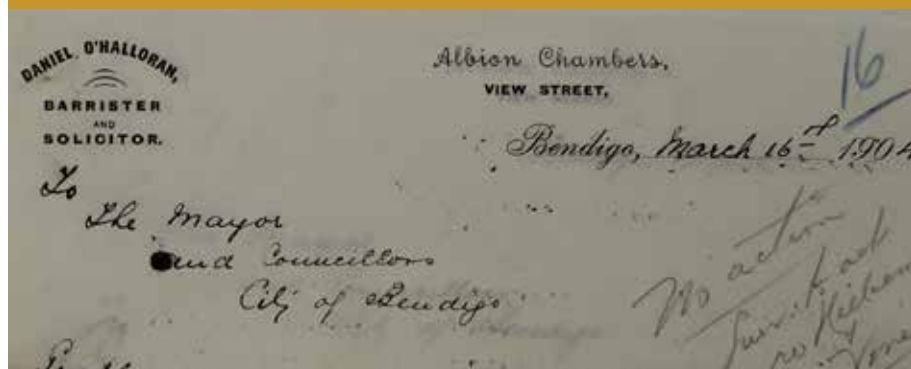
¹⁸ Junior Argus, *The Argus*, 2 Nov 1939, p17

¹⁹ Fire boys in Easter Fair procession, *Bendigo Independent*, 19 Apr 1905, p2

²⁰ The Procession, *Bendigo Independent*, 25 Apr 1905, p3

RUNNING AND RUNNING

DANIEL O'HALLORAN (B.1877)



Letter from O'Halloran Solicitor, 1904

Ink on paper

Public Records Office of Victoria

VA 2381 City of Bendigo, 20th Century Inward Correspondence

Letter from Bendigo Hares & Hounds, 1902

Ink on paper

Public Records Office of Victoria

VA 2381 City of Bendigo, 20th Century Inward Correspondence

The O'Halloran family were only in Langston Street for a short time and luck seemed to desert them whilst there. Daniel O'Halloran was son of Victory Hotel and United States of Australia Hotel publican, Roddy O'Halloran, born and raised in Sandhurst. He attended the Corporate High School and later the University of Melbourne from which he graduated successfully from a law course in 1901¹. Returning to practice in Bendigo, he married Clare Southey – the daughter of a Castlemaine stationmaster² - and made Langston Street their marital home.

In 1905, Daniel determined to run for election for the Barkly Ward of the City of Bendigo council and conducted a campaign, speaking in local hotels and other venues³. The declaration of the poll took place at the Eaglehawk Town Hall and despite polling well, Langston street neighbour, William Wilkie was successful as the candidate for Barkly over Daniel. A disappointment no doubt, but aggrieved by the discovery on arriving home to Langston street that they had been burgled⁴⁵.

Recorded stolen were a cable bangle, a silver watch and chain, an amount of silver, and £1 belonging to a domestic servant. The thieves broke the side glass to the front door and forced the catch, gaining entry to thoroughly ransack the property, and taking the key when disturbed by friends who had called at the house at 9:30pm⁶. The following month, Clare posted a reward for her tan collie puppy which had strayed from home⁷.

Daniel was active in other aspects of community life – he sat on the board of the St Killian's branch of the Hibernian Australasian Catholic Benefit Society, appeared to have aided in fundraising for a talented young pianist, William Murdoch, to further his studies (the O'Hallorans were involved with the Austral Society⁸), and was prominent member of the Bendigo Hares & Hounds¹⁰.

Established in 1901 with a club logo of a yellow B on navy blue, the Bendigo Hares and Hounds Club – also known as Harriers – was very popular and Daniel was an active participant. As an office bearer, he served as treasurer on the inaugural committee¹², and later vice-president¹³, and secretary. Spectators for the events were common in the early days of the Club, as reported in the *Bendigo Advertiser*:

*"The run of the Bendigo Hare and Hounds for this afternoon will start at 3 o'clock sharp from the residence of the president (Mr EW Kirby), "Wilmerdale", Golden Square. The route taken by the hares will be adjacent to roads so that those wishing to follow in vehicles or on horseback may witness the run. Others who may not care to follow will be conducted to a small hall, whence they will be able to view a great part of the race. The run will occupy about an hour and at its conclusion there will be a race home of about a quarter mile to "Wilmerdale". The winner of the race will receive a small trophy from Mrs Kirby. Immediately after the run home all present will be entertained at afternoon tea by the President and Mrs Kirby."*¹⁴

**BENDIGO HARE AND HOUNDS CLUB AT THE EASTER FAIR
THE BENDIGO INDEPENDENT KIOSK AT THE FAIR
A RUSH FOR THE SUPPLEMENT.
A PRIVATE PARTY AT AXEDALE ON GOOD FRIDAY**



These original clubs, whilst participating more broadly in amateur athletics, were based on the Hare & Hounds game developed in England where a small number of runners – the hares – start ahead of the pack, leaving a trail of paper or fabric shreds, chalk marks or other items that represent the scent of the hare; the remaining runners – the hounds – then set off in pursuit, usually over a long distance, and try to catch them before reaching the end point of the race.

The Club itself was very successful, securing rights to the Victorian Amateur Track Championships for the first time in 1904, with their team taking honours in the New Years' Day event held at the Upper Reserve¹⁵. Membership grew quickly after establishment and included in its number Herb Hunter¹⁶ who later went on to play for Essendon Football Club before an untimely end in the Great War.

In 1907, Daniel and Clare's first daughter Clare was born at Langston street, though it appears that the family moved to Barkly Street soon after¹⁷. With a further move to Rowan Street, the O'Hallorans' fortunes changed briefly with Daniel being appointed by the Chief Justice of Tasmania as Commissioner for Affidavits of the Supreme Court of Tasmania in Bendigo¹⁸; he also nominated for the Barkly Ward again in 1907¹⁹, and was also urged to stand in the State Elections for the Liberal Party²⁰, with the promise of the backing of Licensed Victuallers Association, but after deliberation, declined the request²¹. He appears to have been a successful barrister, with many decisions recorded in his clients' favour, including Edith Barkwith, an 18-year-old Kerang girl charged with child murder which was, on Daniel's arguments, reduced to the non-capital charge of manslaughter²²; not only that, he secured her a verdict of 'not guilty' from the jury²³.

The family seems to have moved to Melbourne at some time after 1912 but soon Daniel found himself on the wrong side of the bar. Firstly, he was accused of making false declarations in order to secure a piece of land belonging to a client – a friend of his wife's from Kerang who would regularly visit the couple in Bendigo. Daniel pleaded not guilty to the charge and insisted that no fraud was intended and the money was still sitting in an account, but despite his defence's insistence that there was no evidence to support a trial, a trial date was set and he was granted bail of £100, paid for by his brother Frank²⁴.

Throughout this case, it became apparent that Daniel's health was failing; his GP, Dr Rosenthal, had given evidence that delays in submission of paperwork may have been due to the "brain fag" (a contemporary term for burnout or exhaustion) that the doctor had diagnosed in July. Almost a year later, a judgement was handed down in favour of Daniel – with costs – with the judge concluding that the plaintiff was "grossly negligent" and it would be unfair that Daniel be held responsible for the consequences²⁵.

It was shortly after this case that Daniel appears to have gone missing²⁶, and in the interim, he was at the centre of an investigation regarding professional misconduct which resulted in him being struck off the roll²⁷. The case revolved around the handling of a will for which he had been executor and it was shown in the Practice Court that he had not accounted for amounts of money he had received, and had disregarded a court order for the accounts.

Headlines reading "Former Bendigo solicitor struck off" ran all over the state, and the result, on top of his already tenuous health, must have been quite a blow – in September 1915, Daniel was discovered dead in Hawthorn, aged just 38 years. He was brought back and buried with the family at the White Hills cemetery.

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- ¹ School Speech Days, *Bendigo Advertiser*, 21 Dec 1901, p5
- ² Matrimonial, *Bendigo Advertiser*, 7 Apr 1904, p3
- ³ Barkly Ward: Mr Daniel O'Halloran's Candidature, *Bendigo Independent*, 13 August 1907, p3
- ⁴ Bendigo, *The Age*, 26 Aug 1905, p14
- ⁵ Municipal Candidate Robbed, *The Ballarat Star*, 25 Aug 1905, p1
- ⁶ Items of News, *Mount Alexander Mail*, 26 Aug 1905, p2
- ⁷ Lost and found, *Bendigo Advertiser*, 6 Sep 1905, p1
- ⁸ Funerals, *Bendigo Independent*, 4 Jan 1904, p2
- ⁹ Assisting a young pianist, *Bendigo Advertiser*, 2 Jul 1902, p3
- ¹⁰ Obituaries, *Rochester Express*, 17 Sep 1915, p2
- ¹¹ Harrier jottings, *Bendigo Advertiser*, 1 Feb 1902, p5
- ¹² Athletics, *The Age*, 8 Mar 1901, p9
- ¹³ Hare and hounds club, *Bendigo Advertiser*, 27 Mar 1912, p5
- ¹⁴ The Harriers, *Bendigo Advertiser*, 9 Jul 1902, p3
- ¹⁵ Bendigo Harriers annual meeting, *Bendigo Advertiser*, 26 Feb 1903, p8
- ¹⁶ The Harriers, *Bendigo Advertiser*, 13 Jan 1902, p3
- ¹⁷ Family Notices, *The Weekly Times*, 3 Aug 1907, p12
- ¹⁸ About People, *Bendigo Independent*, 2 May 1908, p4
- ¹⁹ Barkly Ward, *Bendigo Independent*, 12 Aug 1907, p2
- ²⁰ The Liberal Party, *Bendigo Independent*, 30 May 1911, p3
- ²¹ State Elections, *Bendigo Advertiser*, 12 Feb 1907, p3
- ²² Murder charge reduced, *Bendigo Independent*, 7 Dec 1910, p3
- ²³ Pitfalls of youth, *Bendigo Independent*, 18 Feb 1911, p3
- ²⁴ Alleged false declaration, *Bendigo Independent*, 15 Oct 1912, p6
- ²⁵ Bendigo land mortgage, *Bendigo Independent*, 22 Jul 1913, p2
- ²⁶ Struck off the rolls, *The Age*, 25 Nov 1913, p8
- ²⁷ Former Bendigo solicitor, *Bendigo Independent*, 25 Nov 1913, p7

LEST WE FORGET

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE, AIF BASE RECORDS OFFICE

R.C.
Australian Imperial Force.



A.I.F. KIT STORE.
110, GREYHOUND ROAD,
HAMMERSMITH,
LONDON, W. 6.

Inventory of Effects of - No. 4190, FLY, L.A., 8th Bn A.I.F.
Forwarded to - LANGSTON HOUSE -
Mrs Elizabeth S. Fly,
14 Langston Street,
Dorridge,
VICTORIA.

SARDINIA

Effects received from the field (5/2802) 10.9.18.
ONE PRINCE (Sealed) Containing:-
1 Tobacco pouch, 1 Handkerchief, Pair Tissues, 1 Metal
Trist Watches (Damaged).
Effects received from the field (5/2803) 10.9.18.
1 Cloth Wallet, 1 Pocket Book, 1 Photo Case
Photos, 1 Testament, Gold Ring, Knife, 1 Metal
Ring, 5 Coins, 1 Testament, 1 *Confession*.

No. of Package 42246
Checked by



First Australian Imperial Force Personnel Dossiers, 1914-20

Print, ink on paper

National Archives of Australia, B2455, Canberra

Private Ronald George Wilkie
9 Langston Street

Private Jack Stanley Dale
82 Langston Street

Private Leslie King Fly
14 Langston Street

Private Ernest Cooper Davey
Langston Street

Served in the AIF in the Great War

John Plim
John Stanley Cocking
Ernest Stanley Fisher
John Alan Fly
Charles Gilbert Hazeldine
Alfred Rogers
Cecil Rogers
John William Rogers
James Thomas Holl
Andrew Enever
Arthur Davey

GIVING AND GIVING

BRITISH AUSTRALASIAN TOBACCO COMPANY



Lucky Hit Ready Rub Tobacco Tin, date unknown
Tin
On loan from private collection

The residents of Langston Street were a philanthropic bunch, donating to and supporting a wide range of causes across time, but especially the efforts for the First World War.

In 1917, the Hibernian Hotel (corner Bridge Street and Cemetery Lane) supported an appeal whereby Havelock tobacco tags could be collected and exchanged (25.00 per) for artificial limbs for “deserving unfortunates”¹; Mr McMillan of 262 Langston Street contributed a full box of tags to Mr McCarthy, the Hibernian landlord.

The Southern Cross Tobacco Fund – alarmingly nicknamed “Smokes for Soldiers” – was launched following the success of a comparable campaign in Britain where citizens contributed coins to ensure soldiers on the front were supplied with adequate tobacco, of which AIF servicemen on the front were consuming no less than £1,500 worth per day². Packages containing 23 cigarettes or two ounces of tobacco, some matches, and a stamped post card by which the soldier could send back his thanks were distributed, to bring solace to and keep the spirits up of



servicemen, via the Overseas Club. Even articles outlining how school teachers could support the appeal and encourage the families of their students to make some contribution – “every little makes a muckle”. Jessie Pulfer of Langston Street had collected 3s for the fund, managed in Bendigo by the *Advertiser*³.

A novel fundraiser was determined in 1917 when the Lady Mayoress' Patriotic League launched Copper Chain Day – inspired by a similar idea undertaken in Ballarat⁴, a chalk line was laid by an artist around the block from Charing Cross fountain, to Williamson Street, down Hargreaves Street and back up Mitchell to the fountain. The aim of the day was to have the whole line covered in copper coins (one not being allowed to cross the line without paying a ‘toll’) which would then be donated to fund comforts for Australian soldiers at the front. Many people and businesses supported the event, coming out in droves to lay down copper coins but some, like Thomas Scott of Langston Street was not able to attend. His contribution added to the total raised of £130 for soldiers' comforts⁵.

Closer to home, the Lady Mayoress of the day usually had a pet cause to promote and support, and a variety of fundraisers were delivered across Bendigo. In 1915, Mayoress Wilkie, of Langston Street, directed that her Fund support the Belgian Relief Fund, with significant contributions from communities in Dinghee and Raywood⁶, and initiating Belgian Flag Day, when ladies sold Belgian flags, following suit with a similar Melbourne movement⁷. Mary Wilkie's efforts for the Belgian cause were commendable, procuring a donation of £100 from the Edith Lansell⁸ and of a block of land from Nurse Squires⁹, as well as numerous other items.

She was also interested in local matters and in that same year, hosted the Blanket Fund, a drive to procure gifts of warm blankets for the poorer section of the community for the upcoming winter; her brother, the then MLA Luke Clough (also residing in Langston Street), contributed a pound to the fund bringing her total to over £14¹⁰. In her first stint as Lady Mayoress, in 1910, she had similar drive to the philanthropic, convening a meeting with the Mayoress of Eaglehawk and councillors to arrange a fair in benefit of the Watson Sustentation Fund for ‘worn out miners’¹¹; she also held a meeting at Horonda House in Langston street to prepare fundraising efforts for a ‘King Edward Memorial Sanatorium’ for the treatment of consumptives¹²; this ultimately took the form of a juvenile and fancy ball. Mary Wilkie was busy in her role as Mayoress, opening the season at the Bendigo Croquet Club¹³, hoisting the 1914 Premiership Pennant at the opening of the Bendigo Football League season in 1915¹⁴, and setting meetings to arrange support of many other causes, like the French Red Cross Fund¹⁵, Mrs Bayne's garden fete for Flight's City Band¹⁶, and the Commercial Travellers Choral Party Concert for sick and wounded soldiers¹⁷.



Even out of office, the Wilkies continued their charitable works and after a donation of £28 to the Bendigo Benevolent Asylum in 1915, the pair were appointed life governors of that institution¹⁸.

The Mayoress' ladies committee supported the Easter Fair annually, and Mrs Enever of Langston Street was a regular, for several years helping with the Tea Rooms¹⁹. Mr Enever was for a time president of the Watson's Fund, and received a cheque from the Golden Square Baths Carnival from Cr Holland for their work²⁰.

¹ Tags wanted, *Bendigo Independent*, 9 Jun 1917, p6

² Solace in smoking, *The Herald*, 2 Dec 1916, p4

³ Smokes for soldiers, *Bendigo Independent*, 10 Jul 1917, p6

⁴ Lady Mayoress' Patriotic League, *Bendigo Independent*, 20 Nov 1917, p6

⁵ November, *Bendigonian*, 3 Jan 1918, p11

⁶ Helping the Belgians, *Bendigo Independent*, 15 May 1915, p7

⁷ Belgian flag day, *Bendigo Independent*, 13 Mar 1915, p7

⁸ Belgian relief, *Bendigo Independent* 15 Apr 1915, p5

⁹ Helping the Belgians, *Bendigo Independent*, 5 May 1915, p5

¹⁰ Blanket fund, *Bendigo Independent*, 13 May 1915, p4

¹¹ Watson Sustentation Fund, *Bendigo Advertiser*, 17 Dec 1910, p2

¹² Fighting consumption, *Bendigo Independent*, 2 Sep 1910, p5

¹³ Croquet, *Bendigo Advertiser*, 17 Nov 1910, p3

¹⁴ Football: Bendigo League, *Bendigo Advertiser*, 26 Apr 1915, p3

¹⁵ French Day, *Bendigo Advertiser*, 13 Jul 1915, p7

¹⁶ Flight's City Band fete, *Bendigo Independent*, 16 Nov 1910, p4

¹⁷ Meetings, *Bendigo Independent*, 19 Jul 1915, p1

¹⁸ Bendigo and district, *The Argus*, 15 Sep 1915, p10

¹⁹ Ladies' committee, *Bendigonian*, 8 Feb 1917, p20

²⁰ Swimming carnival, *Bendigo Independent*, 25 Feb 1918, p3

PUTTING BREAD ON THE TABLE

MAKER UNKNOWN



Rabbit traps, unknown

Steel

On loan from private collection

Like any thoroughfare, Langston Street was home to people with a wide range of skills and vocations. Situated adjacent to mines, of course miners and mine managers called Langston home, and close to the city, businessmen also built their houses here. Just a sample of some of the more interesting jobs that kept Langston street residents occupied:

Gold was not just discovered as individual nuggets – often it was to be found in quartz or low-grade ore and was difficult to extract. In the 19th century, a process was fine tuned to leach gold from what would otherwise be tailings using cyanide (now banned in many countries due to the health and environmental effects)¹. A person engaged in applying this process was referred to as a ‘cyanider’ and this was the work undertaken by Charles Wood who lived at 36 Langston Street in 1940.

Particularly during the inter-war period, sweets, chocolate and toffees became very popular and to be a confectioner was not an unusual trade when Albert Lenten practiced the sugar arts in 1930, most likely from one of the several confectioners or mixed business stores in Bendigo; over the next decade he became a storekeeper in his own right. Perhaps Bendigonians could rely on punctual deliveries when employing carter and driver ‘William John Speedy’? And was fate at work when ‘Henry Hammer’ went into the stonemasonry trade?

George Batten lived at 223 Langston Street, and with his father Samuel, was in the trade of trapping rabbits. They both came to grief when after a rabbit trapping expedition to Kerang,

the back wheel of their car collapsed at California Gully and both were thrown clear of the car and – the car being badly damaged – had to be conveyed to Bendigo Hospital for treatment to lacerations and for concussion².

Plenty of ladies were breadwinners over time – Dorothy Keogh and Maria Wittscheige were typists, as was Joyce Wallis, while her sister Marie was an attendant (their father Frank was a clerk); Florence McMillan and Elsie Smith were waitresses; Winifred Quin, Elizabeth Hackett and Caroline Hunt were among the nurses who lived in Langston Street while Ellen Castree was appointed mistress of the Bendigo Industrial School in 1868, the best of fourteen applicants considered by the Benevolent Asylum Board³; Ada Long, Rose Poulston and Emily Clough all made a wage through dressmaking and tailoring; Ann Forrest and Tot Whitehead were skilled milliners and Tot's sisters, Josephine & Victoria Whitehead, Alice Oates, Margaret Cocking and Kitty Quin were saleswomen. Two ladies held hotelier licences – Elizabeth Shepherd and Bridget Trumble – and Eliza Trembath operated a grocer's store.

Several other grocers occupied this strip, often several operating at the same time, including Henry Sims Jnr and wife Helen, who took on the store after the death of his father Henry Sims Snr in 1901; William Hampton; Thomas Mills; Henry Forrest and his father George before him; Claude Mumford (married to Mary Quin who grew up in Langston street), George Russell, William Gall, Edward Peel, Sam Upson, Robert Richardson and Archie West.

Brothers Henry and Percy Rickards lived in Langston Street and in 1912, manufactured bicycles; both competed in cycling⁴, and later branched into motor vehicles⁵, running Richard Bros on the corner of Mitchell & Myers streets⁶.

In 1929, David Roberts worked for the Post Office (245 Langston), near to where the current day Bendigo North Post Office is located on the corner of Michelsen (formerly Langston) and Arnold Streets.

Other more interesting jobs held by Langston residents were bread carter (Kevin Fitzpatrick), strapper (Robert Lucas), piano tuner (Eric Boyd), organiser (John Keogh), brewer's traveller (Richard Poulston), sport depot owner (Edward Owen), Hosier (John Buchan), watchmaker (James Downie), the ambiguous 'gentleman' (John Daron Snr; John Harry, Thomas Milroy, Oliver Randall, Richard Pike, Robert Clark, William Robbins & John Kerlin), and registrar (David Buchan).

Teaching also seemed to be a popular profession for those residing in Langston Street – Charles Stocks as early as 1882 through to couple, Peter & Janette Hatton in 1967. William Kruger taught various subjects, including mathematics, reading, drawing and singing, at Raywood and Golden Square, and had an accent in 1891, but whether this had an impact on his ability to teach evidently depended on which inspector was doing his assessment! Throughout his career, by different inspectors, William was described both as 'German with a slight accent' and being 'a good deal interfered with by a strong foreign accent' and 'difficult to understand'; as 'very diligent, careful, painstaking, intelligent, industrious, attentive and hardworking' but also as 'an inferior teacher, incompetent and with organisation'; as having great care and energy, organising programming for the headmaster, and capable of conducting a small school' but also as having 'little skill at managing a school' and, remarkably, 'of little use as a teacher'⁷. As no doubt many teachers have been, William was also subject to what police referred to as a 'boyish prank' when an earthenware drain pipe was wrenched from the corner of his Langston street home⁸.

Having previously taught at Barongarook near Colac and then Bagshot, Harold Beckham and his family moved to Langston street in the late 1930s; he was from a family of teachers –

brother Gordon taught at Macorna; his mother Louisa had a BA and taught at Mooroolbark before her marriage to Arthur Beckham and after, at Wharparilla West (where she was head teacher), Torrumbarry South and Pine Grove. Her two sisters, Harold's aunts, were also teachers, as had been his Oxford-educated grandfather Augustus.

Other Langstonians in the profession were Alec Crothers (who passed away in March of this year), Charles Stocks, Mary 'Molly' Wittscheibe (who ceased teaching after her marriage to the Reverend Berkly Rowell), Alf Opie (formerly of Stawell and who served as a representative on the State Schools' Athletic Association), William Barker (lecturer), Arthur Hornbuckle (a language teacher before taking the bar) and Charles Radford (Camp Hill School and All Saint's Denominational School⁹). Nellie Castree, who died of illness in her early twenties, also taught local Sunday School.

Mechanic * Salesman * Bootmaker * Traveller * Miner * Cook * Quarryman * Tailor * Agent * Gentleman * Wood Carter * Motor Mechanic * Battery Man * Attendant * Ordinance Employee * House Wife * Civil Servant * Fireman * Clothier * Plumber * Boilerman * Painter * Organiser * Welder * Assistant * Presser * Plumber * Engine Driver * Law Clerk * Broker * Foundryman * Cab Driver * Upholsterer * Cattle Agent * Butcher * Secretary * Chairman * Newsagent * Warehouseman * Baker * Collector * Printer * Newsagent * Auctioneer * Timber Merchant * Stoker * Puddler * Book Seller * Bricklayer * Blacksmith * Feeder * Dentist * Compositor * Wheelwright * Sergeant Major * Insurance Agent * Motor Bus Proprietor * Military Duties * Miller * Saddler * Railway Employee * Merchant * Lino Operator * Accountant * Carpenter * Railway Ganger * Police Constable * Journalist * Contractor * Fruit Preserver * Braceman * Letter Carrier * Electrician * Tinsmith * Waitress * Chauffeur * Servant * Legal Manager * Draper * Milliner * Gardner * Moulder * Solicitor * Collector * Call Instructor * Telegraphist * Speculator * Stationer * Baker * Timber Merchant * Letter Carrier * Fishmonger

¹ Wikipedia, https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gold_cyanidation, accessed 12 September 2019.

² Rabbit trappers injured, *The Age*, 11 Sep 1934, p15

³ Bendigo Benevolent Asylum, *Bendigo Advertiser*, 18 Nov 1868, p2

⁴ Cycling accident, *Bendigo Independent*, 10 Apr 1906, p3

⁵ Answers to correspondents, *Bendigo Independent*, 3 Aug 1918, p3

⁶ Rickards Bros, *Bendigo Independent*, 12 Oct 1916, p4

⁷ Public Records Office of Victoria, VA 714 Education Department, VPRS 13579/P1 Teacher Records, unit 18, ID 5310, William Leopold Andrew Kruger, 1871

⁸ Boyish prank, *Bendigo Independent*, 27 Jun 1904, p2

⁹ Death of Mr Charles Radford, *Bendigo Independent*, 7 Jan 1902, p2

FROM THE HIGH SEAS

ROYAL NAVY: ROYAL MARINES, COASTGUARD & RELATED SERVICES



UK Naval Officer & Rating Service Record 1902

Ink on paper (print)

National Archives UK

ADM 29/1-32, 34-96, 105-130.

One of Langston street's more mysterious residents is William Vulson, who is one of many representations of the broad ethnic mix that can be seen not just in Langston Street over time but in Sandhurst as a whole.

In the winter of 1872, dozens of Sutton Ward citizens issued a letter to Mr Hattam Esq, requesting that he allow himself to be nominated to fill the City of Sandhurst vacancy created by the retirement of Dr James Boyd, and pledging their support by their vote and interest. In addition to many well-known residents, including Dr Boyd himself, one name which appears is William Vulson¹.

At this time, William is recorded in the rate books as a miner residing in a hut on Crown land "off Wattle Street", but by 1876 he is listed on his own land in a house, on Langston Street (also sometime referred to as 'off Wattle street', so possibly the same block since he first appears in Ironbark, in a tent, in 1865².

By 1876, he is described as a pensioner and from newspaper reports, appears to start struggling with his health. William is not just any pensioner, but a Royal (Brit ish) Navy pensioner, receiving an annual pension of £28/14/0³, described in newspaper reports as 'an ancient coloured individual'⁴.



Born in 1802, William enlisted in the Royal Navy at Whitehall in 1825, holding various roles across his career including Captain's Steward (a civilian role encompassing senior cook and servant duties, typically hired by the Captain and who wore civilian clothing) and a Gunner's Steward (aiding the head gunner in charge of the Ship's arrangements). His service aboard St George in the Crimean campaign in the late 1840s earned him a Baltic Medal in 1856. He served first on the ship HMS Leven and concluded on the HMS Helena 27 years later⁵. While the Naval records rarely recorded ethnicity, and almost always western 'slave names' were used in the case of black sailors, author Phillip Allan suggests that sailors of African persuasion or descent were not uncommon in her majesty's service⁶.

How William came to arrive on the Goldfields is unclear but with his pension, appears to have made a living as a miner well into his seventies before ill health begins to plague him.

His first appearance in court seems to be in August of 1877, brought before Cogdon PM on a charge of inebriation; he was remanded for medical supervision:

"...he had presented himself at the lock-up at nine o'clock in the morning, stating that he was troubled and constantly followed by spirits."⁷

A later report detailed that these spirits had "...a tendency toward evil, took an infernal delight in harassing and embarrassing him in every conceivable way"⁸. Dr Cruikshank examined William and recommended his admission to the Benevolent Asylum, believing his issue arose primarily from lack of proper nourishment.

Unfortunately, this doesn't seem to have been the case – just a few months later in November, he was committed on warrant to the Kew Lunatic Asylum suffering dementia but otherwise in good health⁹. It was at Kew where, a year later aged 75, he died of disease of the lungs and brain, and old age.¹⁰

¹ Advertising – Electoral, *Bendigo Advertiser*, 20 Jul 1872, p4

² Public Records Office Victoria, VA2381 City of Sandhurst, VPRS16267/P1, units 16, 20 & 9, City of Sandhurst Rate Books

³ Public Record Office Victoria, VA 2863 Hospitals for the Insane Branch, VPRS 7446/P1, Alphabetic List of Patients in Asylums 1871-1884, Unit 6, Kew Asylum

⁴ The Bendigo Courts, *Bendigo Advertiser*, 6 Aug 1877, p2

⁵ The National Archives UK, UK Naval Officer & Rating Service Records, Admiralty: Royal Navy, Royal Marines, Coastguard & Related Services: Officers' and Ratings Service Records (Series II), ADM 29/1-32, 34-96, 105-130.

⁶ Allan, Philip K, 'Black Tars – The Role of Black Sailors in the Royal Navy in the Age of Fighting Sail', *The Dawlish Chronicles*, <https://dawlishchronicles.com/2019/01/15/black-tars-black-sailors-in-the-royal-navy-in-the-age-of-fighting-sail/>

⁷ The Bendigo Courts, *Bendigo Advertiser*, 6 Aug 1877, p2

⁸ City Police Court, *Bendigo Advertiser*, 7 Aug 1877, p3

⁹ Public Record Office Victoria, VA 2840 Kew Asylum, VPRS 7680/P1 Register of Patients 1877-1884, Unit 3

¹⁰ Public Record Office Victoria, VA 2807 State Coroner's Office, VPRS 24/P1 Inquest Deposition Files, Unit 379, item 1878/958

WHERE, OH, WHERE HAS MY LITTLE DOG GONE?

MAKER UNKNOWN



Collie Puppet, unknown

On loan from Goldfields Library Corporation (Bendigo Branch)

Dogs and stock were prone to wander – hence the length of the Dog Inspector's Reports to the City of Sandhurst-Bendigo Council – and Langston Street was no exception. William Witham offered a reward for the return of a black Collie puppy just before Christmas in 1904¹. The Wilkie family's white Pomeranian took itself for a walk from the family's home on the corner of Langston Milroy Streets and a reward was advertised², though perhaps their neighbours might have considered doing the same to ensure that Mr Wilkie's white cockatoo, lost in 1909³, remained so.

A black pony belonging to mine manager, J Ryan, went missing in 1897, a reward offered⁴; while Mr Pulfer declared that any detainer of his blue chequered rooster would be prosecuted⁵.

Jewellery and personal effects were also easily mislaid. Somewhere between their home at 12 Langston Street and Pall Mall, one of the Butlers lost a feather boa (1912), with a finder reward offered⁶. The address seems to be unlucky for lost goods, the residents there in 1916 advertised a reward for a gold, five-stone turquoise ring that had been lost between Langston and Hargreaves Streets⁷.

In 1918, a gold bar brooch, lost between the hospital and Langston Street, was advertised with a reward⁸; on the same route in 1916, a plain gold cross was lost by the residents of 15 Langston Street⁹. In Golden Gully, Mrs Roberts lost a gold brooch with two doves set in pearls¹⁰, while a keen patron of the arts was without his or her opera glasses, lost somewhere around the View Street Theatre area, with the 14 Langston Street resident

advertising a reward¹¹. A fur necklet was lost by the resident of “Barrabool”, on the corner of Langston Street & View Lane¹², but a larger possum skin rug, valued at £2 belonging to Charles Marrows, was claimed stolen from the rear veranda of his house and was reported to the police rather than advertised in the paper¹³.

A careless clerk from the *Independent* office misplaced a set of plans somewhere between Langston Street and the Station¹⁴, while on the Heathcote train, Mr Steen lost a small black handbag containing gold – with a £1 reward on offer, it seems like not a small amount of gold¹⁵!

¹¹ Lost and found, *Bendigo Independent*, 20 Dec 1904, p4

¹² Lost and found, *Bendigo Independent*, 12 May 1909, p3

¹³ Lost and found, *Bendigo Independent*, 23 Aug 1909, p6

¹⁴ Lost and found, *Bendigo Advertiser*, 22 Oct 1897, p4

¹⁵ Lost and found, *Bendigo Advertiser*, 19 Sep 1902, p1

¹⁶ Lost and found, *Bendigo Advertiser*, 10 Feb 1912, p7

¹⁷ Lost and found, *Bendigo Independent*, 6 Mar 1916, p1

¹⁸ Lost and found, *Bendigo Advertiser*, 1 Feb 1918, p1

¹⁹ Lost and found, *Bendigo Independent*, 10 Feb 1916, p8

²⁰ Lost and found, *Bendigo Independent*, 13 Apr 1918, p2

²¹ Lost and found, *Bendigo Independent*, 10 May 1916, p1

²² Lost and found, *Bendigo Independent*, 6 Oct 1904, p4

²³ Larceny, *Bendigo Independent*, 27 Jan 1908, p2

²⁴ Lost and found, *Bendigo Independent*, 23 Jun 1915, p1

²⁵ Lost and found, *Bendigo Advertiser*, 12 Jul 1895, p4

THE WRIGHT STUFF

GODFREY AUSTIN WRIGHT (B.1925)



***The Wright Road*, 1999**

Ink on paper

Published by Information Australia

On loan from the Goldfields Library Corporation (Bendigo Branch)

New South Welshman Godfrey Wright was first appointed to the Victorian Police Force in July 1924, marrying Minnie Neilsen shortly after, but by 1931, had been reassigned to Nyah and looked destined for a stellar career south of the border when in 1940, he received a 95% pass in his Detective Training Course. In 1945, he was transferred to Bendigo CIB and whilst here, lived in Langston Street with Minnie and son Geoffrey, but was only here briefly before a promotion to Bairnsdale (replaced locally by Senior Detective Boater¹) and then as DI at Russell Street CIB. The Detective was also something of a wordsmith, winning the £2,000 first prize in a slogan competition run by Philip Morris Australia in 1956 with the phrase “one draw and you’ll want more”².

Son Geoff’s ability with words perhaps then was inherited from his father, becoming a journalist of some note after completing service with the RAAF in the second world war and failing to find his feet in Fleet Street, London. While the family lived in Bendigo, Geoff wrote for the *Bendigo Advertiser* where he met his wife, Claudia Little. He later worked for PR firm Eric White Associations, *The Sun*, *The Bulletin*, as a crime reporter on ABC’s *Newsroom Night*, Reuters agency, and later for fourteen years with *The Weekly Times*. It was with this paper that he forged a style that would become very well known, penning the Jumbuck Column and publishing his own book of trademark ‘yarns’ from across rural areas, *The Wright Road*. Herald and Weekly Times managing director Julian Clarke once wrote, “...Geoff’s gruff exterior conceals the brain of a true journalist and the heart of a poet. For half a century, he has created the sort of journalism that people still love to read in this age of information overload.”³

Geoff passed away in 2004, a year before former wife Claudia, and is interred at the Lilydale Cemetery.

¹ Bendigo police appointment, *The Age*, 30 Apr 1949, p10

² Six little words won him prize, *The Argus*, 21 Jan 1956, p7

³ Sixty-two years in newspapers, Australian Newspaper History Group, *Newsletter #27*, May 2004, p10

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