

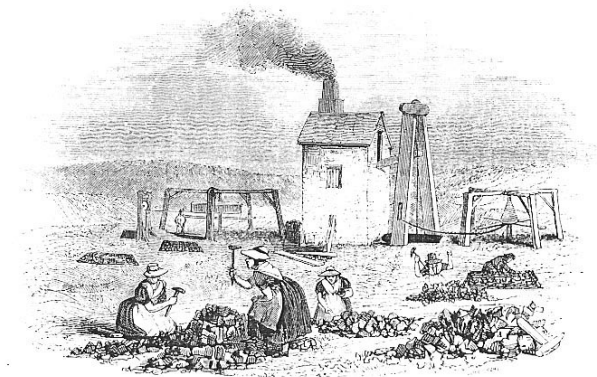
## Mary Angove (nee Merritt)

Mary Angove, born Mary Merritt, was the second wife of George Frederick Baker. They married when he was 58 and she 54, and they had no children. Although, therefore, she is not a blood relative to the Baker family she led a fascinating life in the middle of one of the greatest periods of Australian history – the Gold Rush. Mary was already twice widowed when she married into the Baker family and, as George Frederick pre-deceased her, she buried three husbands (and three sons) before dying herself in 1908 at the age of 76 as a successful and wealthy pioneer businesswoman. However, let us go back to the start.

Mary Merritt was born to Robert Merritt, a miner and engineer, and Sophia Williams in Gunnislake, Cornwall, probably on October 30<sup>th</sup>, 1831. Gunnislake is in the Tamar Valley on the border of Cornwall and Devon, on the edge of Dartmoor, and a rich area for mining copper, tin (and arsenic) throughout the nineteenth century. The name Gunnislake is a derivation of two words - 'gunnis' meaning an open mine, and 'lake' the Cornish term for water.

Mary had six siblings: Elizabeth (b c1826), Jane (c1828), Robert (c1835), Eliza (1839), John Edwin Williams (1842), and Henry (1845). Her father Robert died in or near Okehampton, Devon, in 1846, at approximately 45 years. Her mother Sophia moved to Tavistock, Devon, and died there in 1877 at the age of approximately 75.

By 1851 Mary had already begun to work in the copper mines and was living with her aunt and uncle in Tavistock, Devon, a short distance from Gunnislake. She began her connection with mining as a Cornish “balm maiden”. The balm maidens were girls, as young as seven but usually 16 to 19 years of age, who worked at the mines breaking up and dressing the ore after it was brought to the surface. Women were not allowed to work underground, but it was very common for the above ground workers to be mostly women, girls and young boys. The work was hard and physically demanding. On November 15 1851, Mary married John Cliff, a miner and the son of a miner, in Tavistock.



Meanwhile, on the other side of the world, in a country that most residents of Cornwall would not have heard of, the rumours of small gold finds which had been occurring on and off over the previous 30 years, became big news. The first payable gold was found by Edward Hargraves in Ophir, near Bathurst NSW, and announced in the press in May 1851. The rush was on. By the end of that year, further and larger finds were made in Warrandyte, Clunes, Ballarat, Mt Alexander (Castlemaine / Chewton), Creswick and Bendigo. The population of Australia flocked madly, to New South Wales and Victoria, leaving cities deserted, farms abandoned and ships without crews weighing at anchor in bay and harbour. The diggings became crowded with people. Many were not at all suited to life on the diggings. Almost all did not find their fortune. Bushrangers roamed the countryside and life was primitive. But by Christmas 1851, just six months later, it was estimated that 250,000 ounces of gold had been taken from the Central Victoria fields. By that time many fields, including Ballarat, had reached the end of the first rush. All of the easily accessible surface gold had been removed and the diggings seemed exhausted.



“The New Rush”, lithograph by S.T. Gill, 1854

Quickly though (relatively speaking in a time where any news took months to travel between Australia and the home country) word of the discoveries reached England. Amongst those to see the opportunity was John Cliff and in mid 1852, at the age of twenty and leaving his young wife at home, he boarded the ship “Emily” bound for Melbourne, arriving in October of that year. John (born 1827 in Crowan, Cornwall) was a tin miner.

Many Cornish miners came to the Australian goldfields bringing practical expertise to a country where the mining to date had been limited to panning the creeks and digging out soft riverbed ground to extract alluvial gold washed into the streams.

The experienced Cornishmen – the “Cousin Jacks” as they were called – knew that much more gold was to be found deeper under the surface where ancient riverbeds had left behind leads of alluvial gold, trails of golden nuggets washed off the hills in times long past. It has been estimated that around one-third of the population of Cornwall emigrated in the nineteenth century. This was driven by the poverty at home, with crop failures and upheaval from the industrial revolution, as well as demand for their mining expertise in California and Australia.

We presume that like the majority of new arrivals, John headed straight for Ballarat and he would have been there for the second, and greater, rush when Ballarat became known as the richest goldfield in the world. Most claims were 24 feet square worked by parties of four, with the simple shafts sunk down 50 to 100 feet and the washdirt raised to the surface. There it was washed and filtered to separate the gold.

Some claims provided incredible riches. Some pulled up to 100 ounces of gold from a single bucket of washdirt and could realise £5,000 to £10,000 in a week. Many more were “duffers” which missed the gold lead and produced nothing but sand.

The decision where to dig was hit and miss with successful claims surrounded by others trying to “hit the lead”. Even successful payable shafts did not last for very long and syndicates moved on fairly quickly to the next likely spot.



It appears that John Cliff would have been in Ballarat during the miners’ uprising in 1854. In one of Australia’s best known historical events the miners objected to Victorian government attempts to raise mining licence fees by a factor of 30. From 1853 through 1854 the issue simmered, reaching flashpoint in the famous riots at the Eureka Stockade in October 1854.

120 miners were charged with offences afterwards but, when the first ten were acquitted by juries in Melbourne, the government backed down. The licence fees were abolished and replaced by a much cheaper miner’s right which not only allowed the miner to stake but gave them true title to their claim and a nearby housing block as well as providing the right to vote.

Early information published in England on the Australian gold rush advised in no uncertain terms that young women not used to agricultural occupations should not accompany their families to the colonies. Despite her own mining experience, Mary did not join John in Ballarat until July 1855, travelling on the “British Trident”.

John and Mary Cliff had two children in Ballarat. John Edwin was born on September 27<sup>th</sup> 1856 and Bessie Sophia on 23<sup>rd</sup> January, 1858 but John died on February 2<sup>nd</sup> 1857 of dysentery at the age of 4 months.

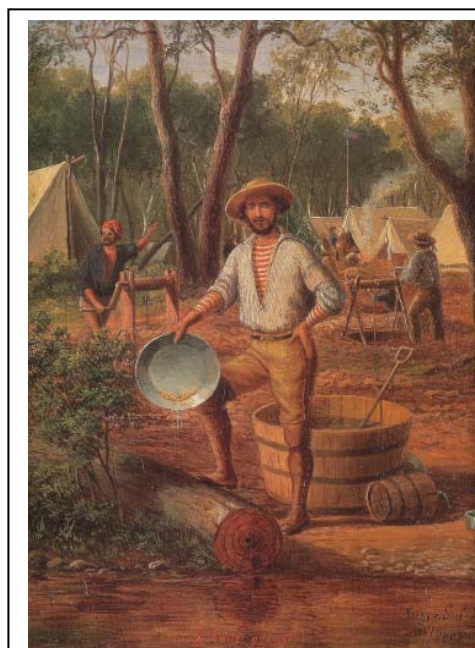
By the late 1850s Ballarat was again coming to the end of its productive time and the mines gradually closed. By 1860, on official government figures, Ballarat had produced nearly 4.5 million ounces of gold worth over £18 million. The real figure, accounting for gold removed from the fields without going through government hands, would have been much more. John and Mary then moved to nearby Creswick, 18 km to the north, where Mary Jane was born on May 3<sup>rd</sup>, 1860. Mining would continue in Creswick until the 1890s, but the Cliff family did not stay long.

In 1861 gold was discovered on the banks of the Lachlan River in NSW. Initially called Blackridge, the settlement became known as Forbes. John and Mary decided to seek their future in this new area. Their third daughter, Emma Williams Cliff, was born here on June 2<sup>nd</sup>, 1862. However the Forbes gold rush was short-lived and by 1863 the town which had amassed a population of 30,000 in just a year was home to only 3,500.

In a pattern very typical of the mining community, John and Mary “followed the rush” and were at “Iron Bark Stoney Creek” by 1863. This was Ironbarks, a small mining town about 60km south east of Dubbo in mountainous terrain (now known as Stuart Town).

On 11th June 1863, aged 36 and residing at Ironbarks, John Cliff died. There does not appear to be a death certificate registered so we don’t know the circumstances of the death but he was buried in Dubbo Pioneer Cemetery. We don’t know why he is buried at Dubbo which was a point on the main north-south trade and transport route but had no mining activity. Perhaps he was visiting the town when he died, or this was the closest cemetery on consecrated ground. If he died at Ironbarks this was a long way to transport a body for burial. John’s estate was declared to have a value of less than £75.

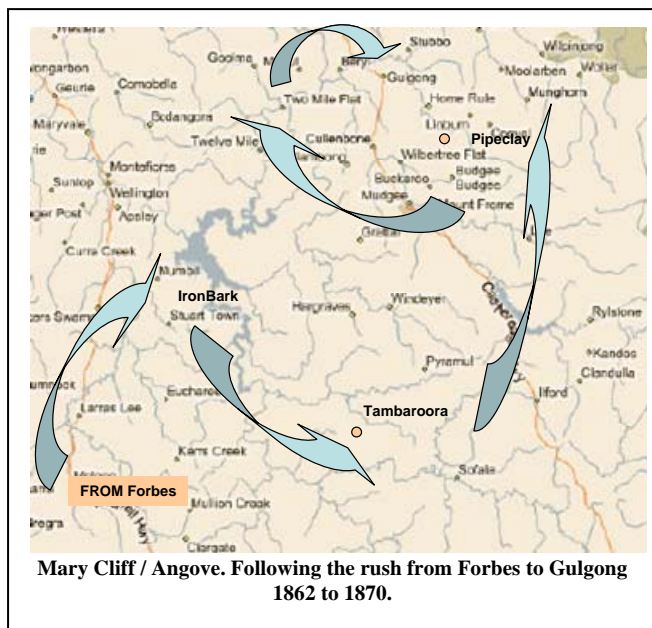
Two neighbours of Mary’s provided surety for administration of John’s estate (he died without leaving a will). One was James McClymont, a butcher, and the other was Richard Angove.



“I Have Got It”, oil by Eugene Von Guerard, 1854 shows a digger with his collection of nuggets in his pan in a typical 1850s goldfields scene.



Richard was a miner and declared that he had assets in excess of £150 being “a share in a Claim, ready money”. Richard Angove probably arrived in Melbourne in August 1858. He was also from Cornwall and a mining engineer. All his brothers also came mining in Australia. William Henry Angove was a mine manager in Clunes, Victoria, being in charge of the Criterion Mine, the Clunes & Blackwood Mining Co and the Eaglehawk Alliance Mine at Maldon among others. John and Thomas Angove were on the Schomberg which became one of the most famous shipwrecks on the Victorian coast when it ran aground on Boxing Day 1855. Luckily all on board were saved. Thomas Angove wrote a diary on the journey which can be read online at <http://web.org.au/thomasangove/>.



Mary Cliff / Angove. Following the rush from Forbes to Gulgong 1862 to 1870.

From Ironbarks, Mary and Richard moved to Tambaroora, about 30km to the south-east, and were married at the Wesleyan Church there on February 6<sup>th</sup> 1864. The church was a bark hut, but was the first church in the area. The Tambaroora goldfield had been opened in late 1851. By 1854, reef gold had been found in several places nearby, and many skilled Cornish miners were brought in to mine, crush and stamp the ore which was found in seams in the granite bedrock. This required much more sophisticated techniques than the alluvial gold mining which also continued in the region. Progress was slow.

The two witnesses to Richard and Mary’s wedding were James Letcher and Phillip Jeffree. In the previous August these two Cornish miners had produced the first successful crushing of reef gold at the “Dirt Hole”, producing 61 ounces of gold from 10 tons of ore. Jeffree was spectacularly successful later selling at least two mines for more than £60,000 each.

Was Richard a partner in one of these successful claims? Certainly he made some money in this period as we next find him and his family as a storekeeper in Pipeclay (later renamed Eurunderee) just north of Mudgee in January 1865. He would have to have made some reasonable money to establish himself and purchase the stock for this business.

Richard and Mary had two sons at Pipeclay – John Dick was born on January 26<sup>th</sup> 1865 and William Henry on June 17<sup>th</sup> 1867. On 24<sup>th</sup> April 1869, they are at Two Mile Flat where Ernest Albert Edward Angove was born. Richard was a storekeeper in each of these locations.

He was mentioned in dispatches when diamonds were discovered right next to his store at Two Mile Flat leading to the first diamond rush that found marketable quantities along the Cudgong River.

However, it is at their next stop that we get most insight into the lives of Richard and Mary Angove, because they were amongst the first to arrive in the latest rush town of Gulgong which was to become not only one of the richest strikes in NSW but also one of the best chronicled. Many of the first settlers in Gulgong were from Two Mile Flat, 12 miles to the west, as it was here that the initial find of gold was reported in April 1870.

This included the first policeman, Sergeant O’Donnell, and the well known publican William Selff who pulled down his hotel at Two Mile Flat and reassembled it on Queen Street. We know that the Angoves were part of the first rush of about 500 people as Mary was appointed the town’s first postmistress from August 15<sup>th</sup> 1870. Their new store, described by the Sydney Morning Herald as “prominent, rearing above all others” was completed in early 1871.



Old coaching towns already decaying for their sins;  
 Uncounted ‘Half-Way Houses’, and scores of ‘Ten-Mile Inns’;  
 The riders from the stations by lonely granite peaks;  
 The black-boy for the shepherds on sheep and cattle creeks;  
 The roaring camps of Gulgong, and many a ‘Digger’s Rest’;  
 The diggers on the Lachlan; the huts of Farthest West;  
 Some twenty thousand exiles who sailed for weal or woe  
 The bravest hearts of twenty lands will wait for Cobb and Co.

Henry Lawson (1867-1922) on the \$10 note and an extract from “The Lights of Cobb and Co.”, 1943.

Gulgong’s history is reasonably well known – mostly because an incredible visual record of the town has survived in the photography of Beaufoy Merlin who, sponsored by local legend Bernard Otto Holtermann, made an extensive photographic survey of the town as well as Hill End and other surrounding areas.



The Angoves Store in Gulgong, photographed in 1872 as part of the Holtermann Collection. It was usual for the photographs to include the storekeepers or householders in each photo so Richard Angove is probably one of the men pictured. The little annexe under the verandah at the left of the picture is the Post Office which was run by Mary Angove up until early 1872. The building next door is the Bank of New South Wales which (though not the original building of course) remains on the same site today.

Henry Lawson, the poet, also spent a portion of his childhood here in 1871-72 with his mother Louisa and wrote about the district extensively in his poetry. When he was made the subject of the new decimal currency \$10 note in 1966, images of the town of Gulgong taken from the Holtermann Collection were used in the background.

Another author Rolf Boldrewood (*Robbery Under Arms*) based his story *Miner's Right* on his experiences in Gulgong. Rolf Boldrewood's real name was Thomas Alexander Browne and he was the Police Magistrate and Gold Commissioner in Gulgong from 1871. He based many of his characters in *Miner's Right* on real people that he knew from the town. Amongst these are the storekeepers John and Mrs Mangrove who are based on Richard and Mary.

The Mangroves are portrayed as generous and kind-hearted, quick to extend credit to the miners and allowing them to pay it back when they had success. This was probably a necessity of business in a town where people rode their luck from boom to bust on a week to week basis.

Miners needed equipment – picks, shovels, buckets and other ironmongery items, clothes, boots, groceries and all were available at the Angoves Store as well as wine, beer and spirits.

In the *Gulgong Guardian* of February 25, 1871 the Angoves' store is described as the town's "foremost improvement ... promising not only an ornament, but a striking proof of the energy and progressive ideas of the business residents". At this stage the population was around 3,000 and men outnumbered women by 5 to 1.

In the same issue the stripping of the bark off logs which would form the basis of the construction of the new police quarters was reported as "Since Sergeant O'Donnell came here from Two Mile Flat he has spent most of his days camped under a tree on the Police Camp Reserve in a calico tent". Private enterprise seemed to be more efficient than government business even in those days!

'So you're "duffered out" again, Harry!' she said, in her usual cheery accent; ... 'you are an unlucky beggar, I must say.

'I'm afraid we are, Mrs. Mangrove,' I said sadly, for my heart was low enough, I confess. 'If I hadn't sworn an oath to keep on till the end of the year, I'd throw the whole thing up. As it is, I don't know what we shall do, for I can't think of asking you for more credit.'

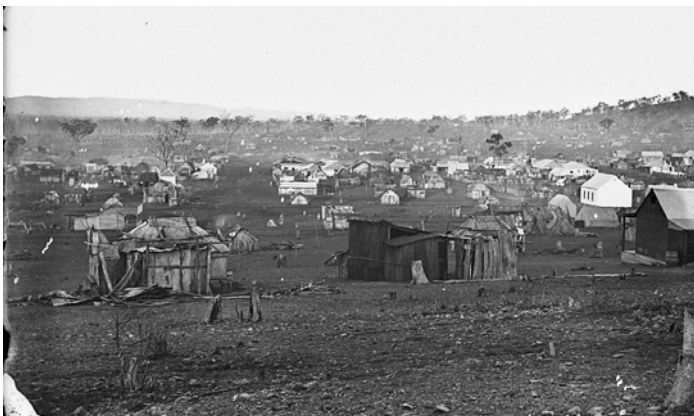
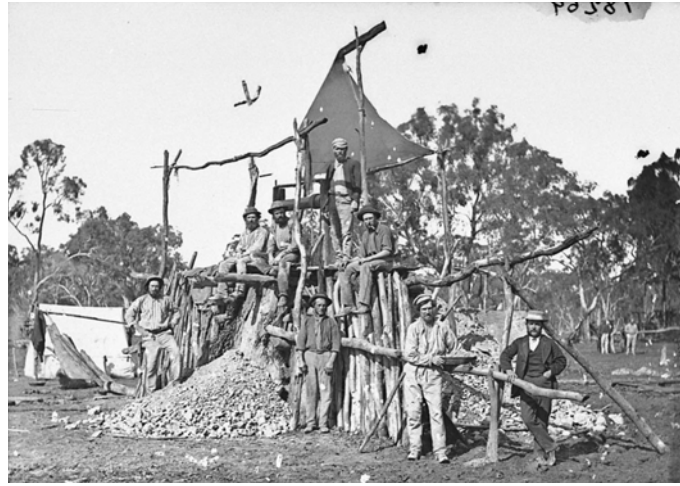
'You needn't ask for it, Harry, my boy; you shall have it without asking, to the end of the year, as you've sworn such a big oath about it. My word! I haven't followed the diggings all these years, me and John, without having to put the pot on now and then. We'll chance it till your time's up, just for the luck of the thing. Perhaps you'll make a rise, and pull us through, and something over.'

'And suppose we don't?'

'Then we can "blue the lot," and your tucker account can go with many another good pound as we've seen the last of. But mind you, it ain't all losings, not by a long way. Didn't Joe Hall put us into that Mary Jane reef, as we're drawing good divs out of to this day. And German Harry gave us a half share in the Fatherland. It was down a bit to be sure, but we got eight hundred pound for that, and four good washings up, too. So you go and fossick out another good show, and I'll stand to you, whether the old man likes it or not.

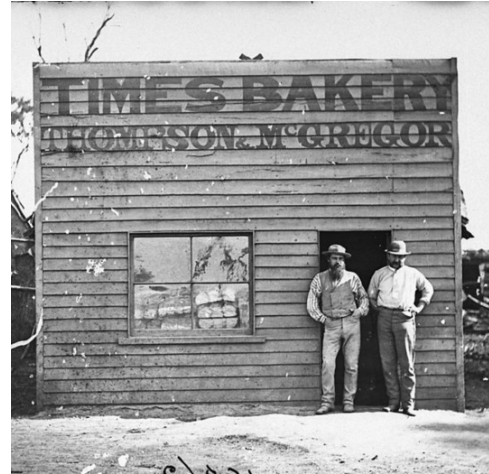
From "*Miner's Right*", Rolf Boldrewood.





Photographs of Gulgong from the 'Holtermann Collection', from top: Miners pose at their claims flying red flags to indicate that they were "on gold". The accommodation out at the claims was primitive and temporary whether made from logs, stripped bark or canvas. Productive or not, most claims lasted no more than a few weeks before the miners moved on. Closer to town the structures were more permanent but still showed the bush hut construction techniques. Few families had more than one room. On the third row at right, Henry Lawson's mother Louisa is shown outside her hut with her son Charles. At left is a view of Gulgong from Church Hill. Only the business area of town had streets laid out, anyone with a miner's right was entitled to erect accommodation in any convenient piece of ground that was not subject to a claim.





More photographs from the 'Holtermann Collection' show the Gulgong township. Top: The Angoves' store was on Queen St. It is in the distance on the right but not visible in this photo. Centre: images of the town's shops were used in the background of the \$10 note including the Gulgong Dispensary, American Tobacco Warehouse and Times Bakery. The first two were combined into a composite image. The 'new' Times Bakery which succeeded this building is now part of the Gulgong Pioneers Museum. At right, from top, the Bank of NSW was next door to Angoves, the annexe post office door visible at right. Selff's hotel was the main commercial hotel in town and was opposite Angoves, and the Red Hill Hotel was originally Joseph Dietz's establishment also relocated from Two Mile Flat. Above is Miss Richards and her girls at the Church of England School. It is possible that Bessie (then 14), Mary Jane (12) and Emma (10) Cliff are in the photo.

In 1871 Richard Angove took ill. It was at this time that he made his will, a very short and concise document stating “I Richard Angove of Gulgong New South Wales, believing that I am about to depart this life do hereby give and bequeath to my wife Mary Angove the whole of my property and chattels to be hers to the exclusion of all other persons whatsoever.” It was announced in September that he would not be taking an active part in the business, handing over the reins to Mrs Angove.

Mary Angove was also mentioned by famous English author Anthony Trollope in his book “Australia & New Zealand”, after a visit to Gulgong in October 1871. After remarking his amazement that there were 12,000 people at the place when it had only “begun to be a place about a month since” he mentioned that the postmistress “enjoyed the reputation of being the beauty of Gulgong”. Trollope also points out the effect of the distances involved in those days noting that it took them three days to travel in a buggy from Bathurst to Gulgong after catching the train from Sydney.

**CHEAP GOODS! CHEAP GOODS!**  
**R. ANGOVE**  
WHOLESALE AND RETAIL WINE &  
SPIRIT MERCHANT  
**AND GENERAL  
STOREKEEPER**  
QUEEN STREET, GULGONG  
Has the pleasure in announcing that, in order to facilitate the opening of his NEW STORE, he has determined to replace his large stock of SEASONABLE and FASHIONABLE Drapery, Clothing, Boots, and is now prepared to offer Goods of Superior Quality at such prices as will convince the numerous customers that their purchases are REALLY CHEAP Goods.  
*One Trial Will Prove the Fact!*

A reproduction of an advertisement in the Gulgong Guardian, of approx April 1871

The Gulgong Guardian, on December 2<sup>nd</sup> 1871, describes Mary in two sections of the paper. First, under the heading A Big Heart: “Besides helping to run a general store with her husband Robert [sic], Mrs Angove is the Postmistress of Gulgong, undertaking this thankless task from an annex between their shop and the Bank of New South Wales. Mrs Angove is a good looker, buxom, possessing a cheery and pleasant countenance, and moreover the miners friend. She allows a continual flow of credit to prospectors, no matter how unsuccessful they are, not because they ask for it, but because she insists on it. It is her belief that one day they will get their ‘golden hole’ and pay her back. She always counters their objections and hard luck stories with a laugh, encouraging the most dejected to try again, as tomorrow their luck might change for the better.”

Further down, she is reported as having christened the new ore crushing plant at Reedy Creek. This article is shown in full below.

The same edition printed a letter to the editor noting that the shops in Gulgong opened from 6 in the morning until around 10.30pm. Perhaps this workload was partially responsible for Mary Angove resigning as postmistress in February 1872. She was paid 1/- per day and sold the business to Mr Robert Robinson, a bookseller, who continued to run it in the Queen St annexe before relocating the following year.

Richard Angove’s health must have returned. On May 12<sup>th</sup>, 1872 Mary gave birth to their fourth son Arthur Thomas Robert Angove, and later that year a new business was born – albeit through adversity. In October, the Angoves’ finances were placed under a Trustee arrangement in favour of their creditors. In November 1872 a “monster auction” of Angoves’ stock was held, and in December the Trustees auctioned whatever remained in Sydney. At the same time, however, it was announced at Gulgong that the store had been converted to a Hotel which would open “in old English style with a Free Supper!” Extensions were promised to “make the house a first class family and commercial hotel” and “unsurpassed on the goldfield”.

**Crushing Plant Opened at Reedy Creek**  
On Thursday last, about 300 people assembled at the invitation of the directors of the Golden Hill Quartz Mining and Crushing Company, to witness the christening of the Company's crushing machine, which is situated at Reedy Creek. This interesting as well as important ceremony was most gracefully performed by Mrs Angove, who with true aim dashed the ribbon adorned bottle of champagne against the large fly-wheel as it revolved, naming it the 'Perseverance.'  
The company then adjourned to a portion of the shed which had been decorated with evergreens, in which a cold coalition provided and tabled in the best style by the well-known caterers, O'Neill Brothers of Queen Street. After ample justice had been done to the refreshments, the company wended their way to a smooth green sword, where they enjoyed the light fantastic in the jolliest tradition to the enticing music of Herr Badham's Band.  
Returning again to the refreshment tables, the company was seated and addressed by Mr Gerald Spring MLA, who toasted the success of the Golden Hill Company in a few appropriate sentences, which were loudly applauded. He then toasted the 'Ladies', especially Mrs Angove, and expatiated in his best style on the pleasure that their presence produced at the Christening. Mr Simeon Mosses responded on behalf of the ladies, paying a well merited tribute to Mrs Angove. Her liberality and desire to assist the miners has contributed in a great measure to the success of the goldfield. She was ever ready to assist the prospectors, and by her timely aid she gave impetus to the deep sinking on Gulgong that made it what it was. It was most appropriate that the lady who had christened the first deep lead should also perform the ceremony to christen the first crushing machine – a remark that was enthusiastically applauded.

As reproduced in Diary of a Goldfield, Baldwin and Boyd-Davis.

For the Angoves 1873 was not an auspicious year. In January Richard Angove was fined £2 for being drunk and disorderly in the Government compound, and worse was to come. Arthur Angove died on July 2<sup>nd</sup> 1863 of burns received in an accident. 14 month old Arthur was with his step-sister Mary Jane Cliff and some of her girlfriends at the Old Cemetery where they lit a fire. Mary Jane, then 13 years of age, went to gather more wood chips when she saw that her step-brother had crawled into the fire setting light to his clothes. She tried to put it out with her frock and the son of a woman who lived nearby threw water over the infant to put out the flames. Mary Jane's hands were burnt and Arthur died later that night suffering from burns over most of his body.

Richard Angove died two years later, on July 17<sup>th</sup> 1875, aged 49. Cause of death was degeneration of the heart. He was buried in the Gulgong cemetery next to his youngest son. Mary took over the hotel and remained the licence holder until 1880 when John Powell officially took over. It appears though that Mary and her children left Gulgong earlier than that. Mary took over the licence of the Albion Hotel in Cootamundra in 1877. In December 1878 her eldest daughter, Bessie Sophia Cliff, married Robert Chapman who was the local bank manager in Cootamundra. Robert was a 27 year old widower, and Bessie was 20 years old. Robert had a daughter by his first marriage – named Florence but known as “Ruby” – who was then 6 years old. Her mother Alice died of puerperal fever (complications of childbirth) on 13<sup>th</sup> August 1872, 9 days after they married, and 19 days after Florence's birth.

There were still minor gold rushes around and Mary also opened hotels at the nearby Scrub Yard and Temora rushes, but by that time the gold was coming to an end and railway towns such as Cootamundra became popular places for the former miners to settle. In June 1880 her daughter Mary Jane married John McCulloch. Mary sold the Albion in 1881 by which time takings of £3,000 per year made it the “best business premises in town” and had made her “quite an independence” in just a few years. She had also built the Assembly Hall on the opposite corner, an arcade of 7 shops, and the Cobb & Co's stables (the Cobb & Co office was in her hotel). She bought the properties back in 1882 and had expanded the hotel from 17 rooms to 51 rooms by 1884.

Mary's sons John Dick and William Henry Angove (and presumably Ernest as well) attended Sydney Grammar School as boarders at Cleveland House and both passed the Civil Service Entrance examination in July 1881.

Mary advertised the Albion for sale or lease again in 1884 indicating that she was “leaving the colony for the benefit of her health”. The property was obviously not sold as she still owned all of those buildings in 1898, by which time her son-in-law John McCulloch was the licensee. In the interim it was leased to a Mr Mark Solomon. In September 1884, Emma Cliff married James Connell. The marriage was in Gladesville, Sydney, and in the marriage notice Emma is described as the daughter of Mrs M Angove, late of Cootamundra. Emma and James returned to live in Cootamundra.

On 3<sup>rd</sup> February 1886, Mary Angove married George Frederick Baker, a widower, at St Phillip's Church, Sydney. She was then living in Glebe. When and where did they meet? One likely answer is Glebe, in Sydney's inner west, which was also the place of residence of George's son Charles Baker.

George Baker and his first wife Sarah had lived in Wagga Wagga where they ran the Pastoral Hotel from around 1883 to 1886, although Sarah is believed to have spent most of the time in Sydney living with her eldest daughter Harriet Swan in Newtown. A family story has it that they knew Mary Angove well before Sarah died (in 1885) and Sarah had one of her daughters taste her food for her, worried that it may be poisoned! If that is true then perhaps George met Mary in Wagga when Mary was in nearby Cootamundra. It is also possible that they met many years before as George had spent some time at Hill End in the early 1870s. Soon after their marriage, George and Mary moved to Concord, near Homebush Bay. George was a salesman or commercial traveller after he returned to Sydney. He became an Alderman on Concord Municipal Council in around 1891, a position that he held until his death in 1900.

Mary's eldest son **John Dick “Jack” Angove** was a pharmacist, graduating in 1884, and had a business in George St, Sydney until 1895 or 1896 when he moved to Perth, Western Australia. He died there in 1913 of liver cancer. His only son was also named John Dick and served in World War I. Unfortunately, he died of gun shot wounds received in the Battle of Menin Road near Ypres, Belgium, on September 23<sup>rd</sup> 1917. Jack's wife Annie was remarried to Thomas Swain and returned to Sydney where she died in 1952. John Dick Jnr's widow Jessie also moved to Sydney.

Mary and Richard's second son **Ernest Albert Edward Angove** studied Agriculture at the Sydney Technical College in 1892, worked for the Lands Department, became a Land Agent, a Clerk of Petty Sessions and JP, and was assigned to various towns around the state including Goulburn, Temora, Bombala, and Queanbeyan. He was also a district and country cricketer. He never married and died in Sydney in 1946.

**William Henry Angove**, her third son, pre-deceased her. He graduated in early 1887 with a Bachelor of Science degree from Sydney University with Honours in Physiology, Geology & Paleontology, Zoology & Comparative Anatomy, Botany, and Minerology. He was awarded the Gold Medal for General Proficiency. On January 15<sup>th</sup> 1887, he sailed for London on the M.S. Austral. The death notice in the SMH of 8<sup>th</sup> August 1892 says that he died in London, by drowning, but, according to a memorial on the side of the gravestone at Rookwood Cemetery that is shared with John Angove (Richard's brother), George and Mary Baker, he died in Germany on 11<sup>th</sup> July 1892. He was 25 years of age.



Of her daughters with John Cliff, **Bessie Chapman** and her family moved from Cootamundra to Ryde, Wangaratta and Ballarat in Victoria and then back to Sydney driven by her husband Robert's career in the Bank of New South Wales. She had three daughters and four sons and died in Chatswood in 1939. One son died young – Fred Hungerford Chapman died in Ballarat in 1905 at the age of nine. Two served in the Great War – Robert Hungerford Chapman and Sidney Hungerford Chapman, as well as her daughter Clara's husband Ernest Sleeman Anderson.

A Bank Manager like his father, **Sidney Hungerford Chapman** arrived in France with the 21<sup>st</sup> Infantry Battalion in November 1916. He was identified as having potential and was sent to the Officers Cadet Training School in Oxford, England in February 1917. After 3 months he was appointed 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieutenant and rejoined his unit in France on June 30. They were in reserve and training until they moved to Ypres on September 30. On 4<sup>th</sup> October the 21<sup>st</sup> Battalion was part of the advance at Broodseinde Ridge, a prelude to the 3<sup>rd</sup> Battle of Passchendaele. Advancing up the ridge they met little resistance from the German troops but were exposed to heavy shelling from the enemy artillery which commenced even before zero hour (it turned out that the Germans were planning an advance from their lines at exactly the same time and were shelling in preparation). The objectives were achieved reasonably easily but the casualties were high. Sidney was wounded when a High Explosive shell landed nearby – he had superficial wounds to his left thumb and to his face and was knocked unconscious, but the greatest damage was to his left elbow where the head of the ulna was separated from the rest of the bone. He was not the only one – 7 officers were killed and 7 wounded, 38 other ranks killed and 208 wounded with 15 missing. He was evacuated to England and spent six months recuperating. While his wounds healed reasonably quickly he suffered from acute dyspepsia and could not extend his left arm fully. Unable to return to the front he was assigned in March as a Messing Officer at the 6<sup>th</sup> Training Bn and then promoted to Lieutenant and transferred to be Quarter Master at the 5<sup>th</sup> Training Bn, still in the UK. He became ill with diphtheria late in 1918 and returned to Australia early in 1919.

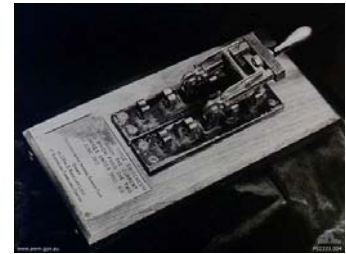
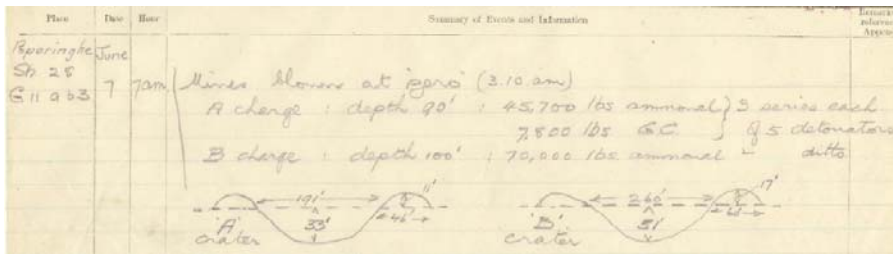
Nine years younger than his brother Sidney, **Robert Hungerford Chapman** enlisted in late 1917 and arrived in France via Suez in October 1918 to reinforce the 24<sup>th</sup> Battalion who were at rest at La Chausee, near Amiens, having just arrived from action on the Hindenburg Line. They recommenced training but were delighted just four weeks later when the armistice was declared. Despite not seeing any action, Robert did have a stop off in hospital in England on the way home spending 3 weeks at the VD clinic to treat a chancroid sore. He arrived back in Australia in May 1919.

**Ernest Sleeman Anderson** was the son of the Bishop of the Riverina. He attended Melbourne Grammar School from 1901 to 1909, was school prefect, a member of the First XVIII, the rowing VIII and Captain of Athletics, and a lieutenant in the cadets. He graduated as a mining engineer at the Ballarat School of Mines and worked for BHP in Port Pirie. While in Ballarat he served in the army reserve as a 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieutenant and maintained that rank when he signed up in the AIF in March 1915 and was assigned to the No 1 Tunnelling Company as a mining engineer. He was commissioned as a Lieutenant in July 1915, marrying Clara Chapman in the same month. After training he was promoted to Captain in April 1916 and arrived in France in May. The tunnelling companies of the Mining Corps were a uniquely Australian innovation, utilising the great depth of skill in underground excavations to prepare tunnels through the front lines for communications, transport and in undermining the enemy positions.



1st Australian Tunnelling Coy. Australian Engrs.	Captain ERNEST SLEEMAN ANDERSON Australian Engrs.	For displaying at all times a remarkable courage. His conception of and devotion to duty has been of the very highest standard in connection with mining operations and has been particularly noticeable on one occasion during the last two months when he supervised the loading of a charge in proximity to a suspected enemy charge, thereby ensuring a successful camouflet.	<i>A. J. [Signature]</i> Lieut. Colonel. R.E. In. of. Mines. Second Army. M.C.
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Top, from left to right: the officers of the 1st Australian Tunnelling Company at Branhoek Belgium in June 1917 – Capt. Ernest Anderson is in the front row 3rd from left, Capt Oliver Woodward is 3rd from the right and between them is the then CO Major Henry; Australian staff officers in December 1917, Captain (Capt) Anderson at left with Mr C. E. W. Bean; Capt Baillean, and Lieutenant Colonel Witham, 1st Anzac Corps; the officers of the 1<sup>st</sup> Tunnelling Co in Feb 1919 preparing to return home – Major Anderson is centre front; and a communications tunnel underneath the Western Front. Below is the recommendation for the Military Cross for Capt Anderson made in late June 1917 after the Battle of Messines Ridge.



The entry in the war diary for the 1st Australian Tunnelling Company on 7th June 1917 detailing the mines blown at 0310 and one of the actual switches used to set of the charges underneath Hill 60.



He was mentioned in despatches on April 9<sup>th</sup> 1917 and promoted to Major and command of the No 1 Tunnelling Co in November 1917 when his Commanding Officer became ill while on leave in England and was reassigned. On January 1<sup>st</sup> 1918 he was awarded the Military Cross for distinguished service in the field – the recommendation was made in June 1917 and referred to the work of the Company in the destruction of Hill 60 over the previous two months. They dug a series of tunnels underneath the hill, placed and detonating 19 mines (over 120,000 lbs of explosives) at 0310 on June 7<sup>th</sup> which destroyed the enemy trenches and signalled the start of the Battle of Messines. He returned to Australia from London, leaving in November 1919, without any record of illness or injury on his record. The work of the No 1 Tunnelling Company has recently been featured in the Australian film “Beneath Hill 60”, and the book by Will Davies, which is based on the diaries of one of Ernest’s colleagues Captain Oliver Holmes Woodward.

His younger brother Ralph was not so fortunate. He served in Gallipoli with the 7<sup>th</sup> Light horse Regiment as an NCO, was evacuated to England with dysentery, transferred to the 52<sup>nd</sup> Battalion and received a commission. Promoted to Captain in April 1917 in France, he received a shrapnel wound in his thigh on June 7<sup>th</sup> 1917 on the first day of the Battle of Messines Ridge and died at the Field Ambulance station from his wounds. This was, of course, the day on which the No 1 Tunnelling Company blew their mines under Hill 60 at the commencement of the same advance. He was buried at the Westhof Farm Cemetery at Nieuwkerke, near Ypres.

After the war Ernest returned to BHP working as a metallurgist at their Iron and Steel Works in Newcastle. He and Clara divorced in 1927 and in 1941 he remarried Kathleen King.

Ernest Sleeman rejoined the AIF for service in World War II, ending the conflict with the rank of Lieutenant Colonel, Commanding Officer of Divisional Engineering for the 1<sup>st</sup> Division. His son Ross Sleeman Anderson also served in World War II as a leading aircraftman in the RAAF. Ernest died in 1963.

**Edward Hungerford Chapman** was a dentist and moved to Geelong to marry Clare Buckland in 1913. They had three children – Loane, Eliot and Marcia. Loane’s husband Peter Maberley-Smith served in the Air Force in 33 Squadron; Eliot served as a Captain with the 1<sup>st</sup> Australian Ordnance Field Park; and Marcia also served as an aircraftwoman with the RAAF. Edward was 91 when he died in 1991.

**Mary Jane McCulloch** moved from Cootamundra to Sydney after the death of her husband in 1902. In 1916 she was living at Oberwinter, George and Mary’s house in Concord. She died in Ashfield in 1937. She had five sons and two daughters.

Her eldest son John Edward McCulloch volunteered in October 1917 at 36 years of age, noting that his “services were required elsewhere” until then. He had lived with Mary and George Baker in Sydney while he was at school – according to his daughter Margto Pye. His occupation was a Depositional Clerk. He was taken on strength on January 1 1918 and did ship out to Europe in September, arriving in Fovant, UK, on November 14<sup>th</sup> 1918 – three days after the armistice was signed. He returned to Australia in mid 1919. After the war he became a police or stipendiary magistrate in Glen Innes at one stage and then in Mosman. His wife Irene died in 1947 and he in 1957. They had two daughters Margot married John Pye in 1950 who was from Western Australia where they lived in 1954. John served as a Lieutenant on HMAS Leeuwin in WorldWar II. Margot also served with the Air Force at Eastern Command Headquarters. Barbara married Brian Walter in 1947. Her father John was living with them in Lindfield in 1954. Brian also served in WW2 as a signalman but only for seven months.

**Emma Williams Connell** remained in the Cootamundra area, had six daughters and three sons. She took over ownership of the Albion Hotel and associated land and buildings, although she leased out the hotel. Her husband James Connell was an auctioneer, magistrate and local business identity. He had large premises next to the sale yards and sold the produce of the area (mostly wheat) as well as providing at various times wheat storage facilities and a slaughterhouse / boiling down works. He was also Chairman of the Cootamundra Turf Club and on the board of the Cootamundra Farmers’ Co-operative Roller Milling Co.

Two of Emma and James Connell’s sons died young, the other Thomas was a farmer at Netherleigh near Cootamundra. Two of their daughters Ruby and Emma lived in Sydney, together for many years, and worked as clerks. Ruby did move back to Cootamundra later in life.



Two other daughters married brothers, each graziers in the Cootamundra District. Dorothy Connell married Geraldra Davidson and May Connell married Harold Davidson. They each inherited, with a third brother Hubert and their cousins - a portion of the original station "Geraldra" which had covered 70,000 hectares before being broken up. May and Harold had the original homestead run – Geraldra – and Dorothy and Geraldra called their property Congou. They bred and showed pure merino sheep as well as growing wheat and between the three brothers dominated the grazing sections of the Cootamundra show for many years.

Their remaining daughter, Becky, married into another well known Cootamundra grazing family marrying Malcolm "Mack" Sawyer of Eulomo station. The Sawyer family were known for horse breeding and racing, Mack was an amateur trainer while both he and his father Matt were well known owner breeders. They were one of the leading families of Cootamundra and regulars on the social pages.

From the "Bulletin":—"Malcom, the eldest son of sportsman Matt. Sawyer, of Bethungra, is in town. He came to claim his best girl, Becky, the dark-eyed daughter of James Connell, of Cootamundra."

Mack's mother Jessie Federica Sawyer was a foundation member of the Country Womens Association, an inaugural Vice-President in 1922 and President of that organisation in NSW from 1928 to 1938, responsible for the creation of the CWA Cookery Book, and awarded an OBE in 1934.

One of Mack Sawyer's main claims to fame is that he employed a then unknown jockey named Tommy Smith in the late 1930s and, after the death of Matt in 1941, gave the young TJ Smith his first horse to train – a son of Windbag named Bragger (right). Bragger was TJ's favourite horse and got him started on his way to being the most legendary trainer in Australia, a tradition carried on by his daughter Gai Waterhouse.



Mack and Becky lived in Rose Bay, Sydney and Becky's mother Emma Connell lived with them. Mack spent more time at Eulomo after the death of his father but he himself died in 1942. His estate put on a massive auction sale at William Inglis & Co to liquidate his extensive racing and breeding stock. Mack's sister Marie, by the way, was married to Robert Clive Inglis, a scion of the bloodstock family.

Emma Connell died in 1947 at Geraldra Station, and Jessie Sawyer in the same year. Becky moved back to Eulomo after her mother-in-law's death where her son Mat was now the country squire. She also had two daughters Peggy and Nancy (who married Owen Lloyd Jones. In the late 1940s a large part (7,400 acres) of Eulomo was subdivided into 8 blocks for returned soldier settlement. The homestead block (approx 4,000 acres) was also offered for sale in 1947 by Matthew's Estate, but the family were still living there in 1954.

Mary Baker died on August 22<sup>nd</sup> 1908 at her daughter Mary's house "Milton", Stanton Rd, Haberfield (or Summer Hill), aged 76 following a stroke. She left a substantial estate for those times. Between her youngest 3 children she left assets of over £500. To her eldest daughter Bessie Chapman she left the proceeds of three life insurance policies – a total of £1,500. She was buried in Rookwood Cemetery with her husband George Frederick Baker, her brother in law John Angove. The stone is also a memorial to her son William Henry Angove.



BIRTHS, DEATHS AND MARRIAGES REGISTRATION ACT 1995

DEATH CERTIFICATE

Date and place of death	Name and occupation	Sex and age	Cause of Death Duration of last illness; medical attendant; when he last saw deceased	Name and occupation of father Name and maiden surname of mother	Informant
1908 August 22 <sup>nd</sup> 535 Stanton Road, Summer Hill Ashfield	Mary Baker	Female 76 years	Rheumatoid Arthritis (1) General Embolism (2) Some years (3) 9 days (4) J. Grigelle R.M.D. (5) Registered August 21 <sup>st</sup> 1908	(1) Robert Merritt (2) Miner (3) Sophia	B.M. Cullock Grandson Stanton Road Summer Hill

Particulars of registration	When and where buried; name of undertaker	Name and religion of Minister and names of witnesses of burial	Where born and how long in the Australasian Colonies or States	Place of marriage, age, and to whom	Children of marriage
(1) Craton (2) August 25 <sup>th</sup> 1908 (3) Ashfield	(1) August 23 <sup>rd</sup> 1908 (2) Church of England Cemetery Rookwood (3) Wood & Company	(1) W.H.H. Yarrington (2) Church of England Clergymen (3) W.H. Strick S.M. Cullock	Summit Lake Richdale Cornwall England 6 years in Victoria 24 years in N.S. Wales	Lewislock Devonshire England (1) Hampshire N.S. Wales and Liphroy N.S. Wales 33 (2) 20 years 33 (3) John Cliff and Richard Angrove George Angrove Baker	By first marriage Beattie J. - 50 Mary J. - 48 Emma W. - 46 (Living) 1 male deceased. By second marriage John D. 48 years Issued 26.39 (Living) 2 males deceased By third marriage No issue

Before accepting copies, sight unaltered original. The original has a coloured background.



REGISTRY OF BIRTHS  
DEATHS AND MARRIAGES

SYDNEY 03 Sep 2008

I hereby certify that this is a true copy of particulars recorded in a Register in the State of New South Wales, in the Commonwealth of Australia

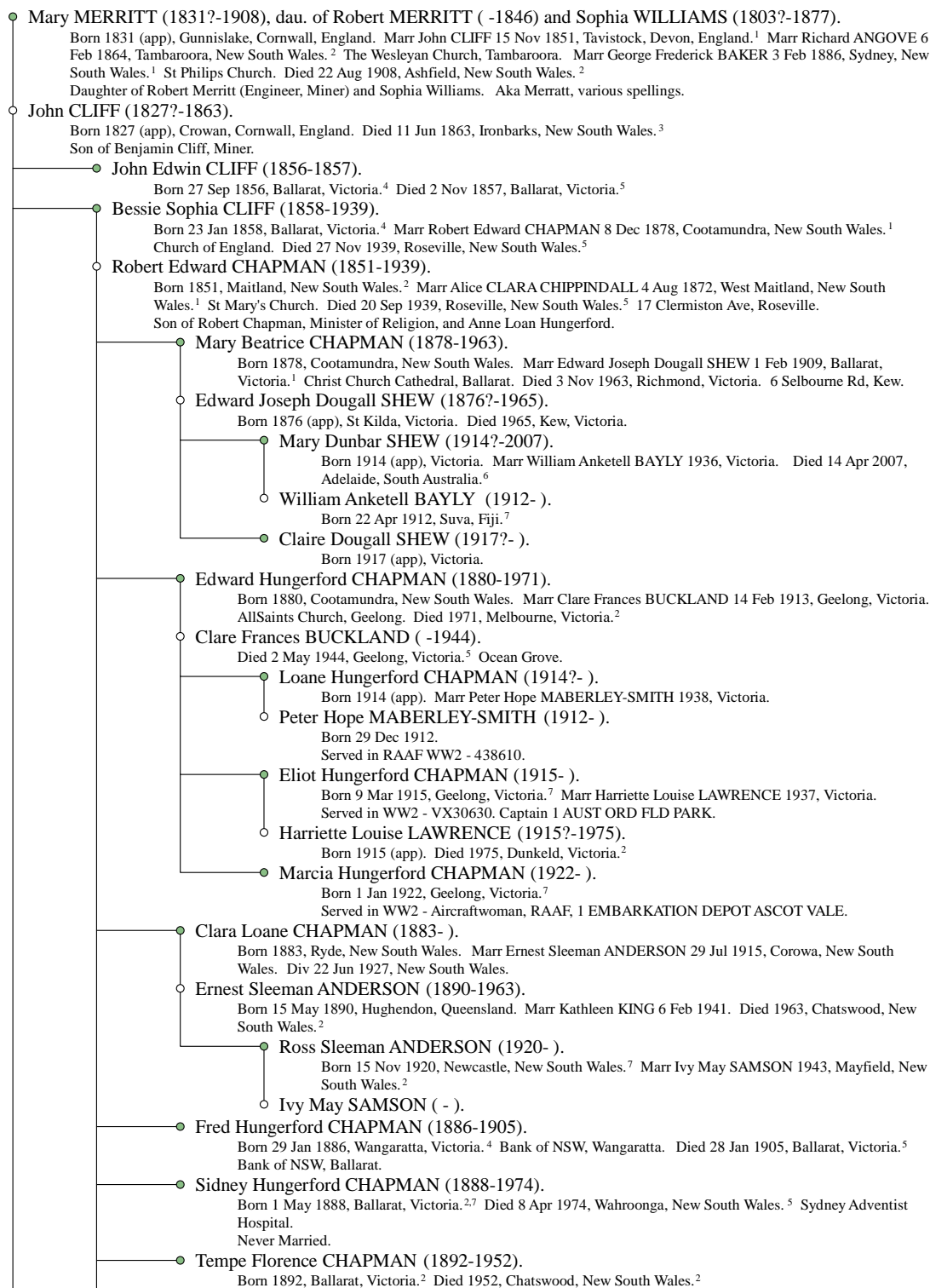
Corey Curry

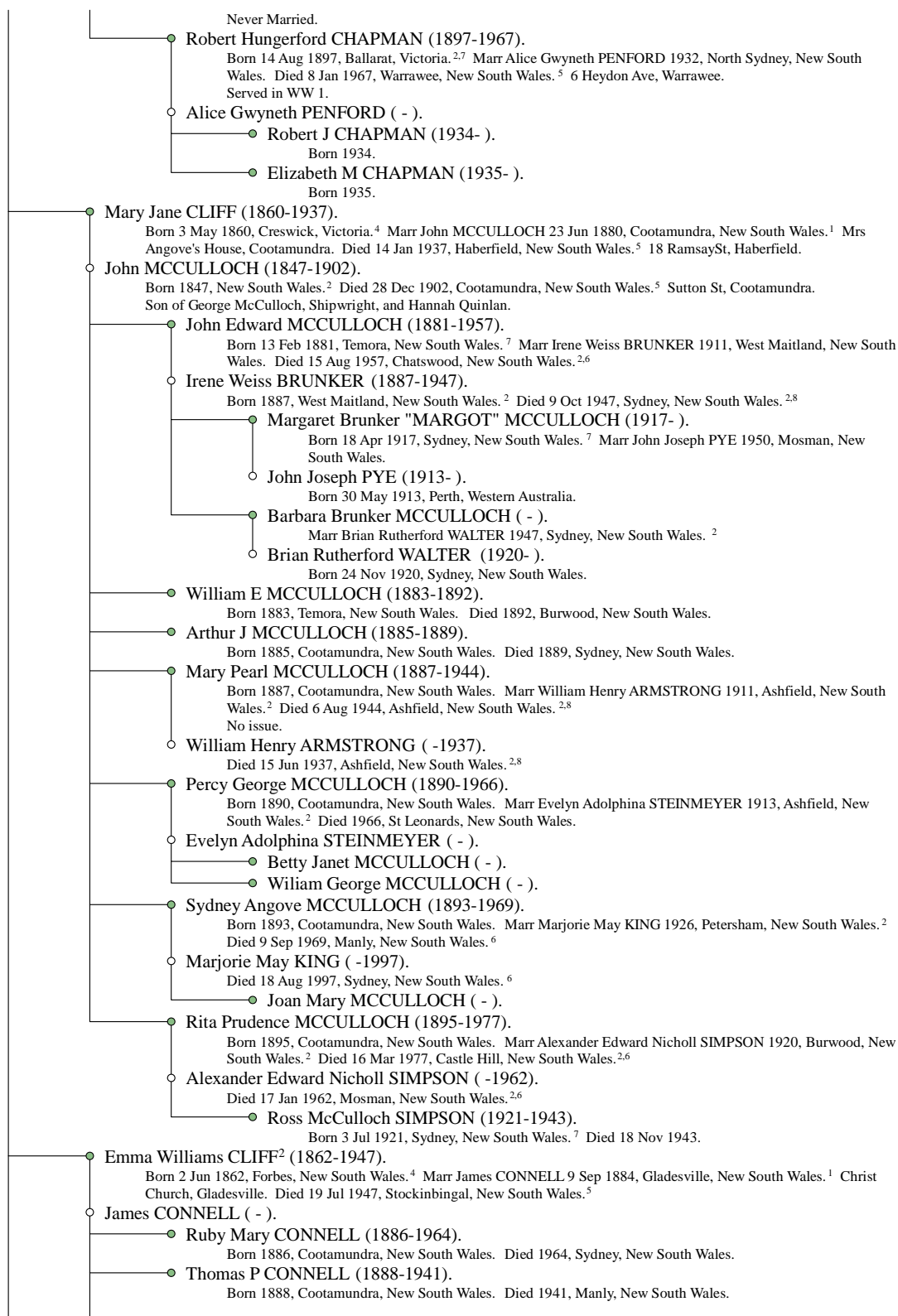
Registrar



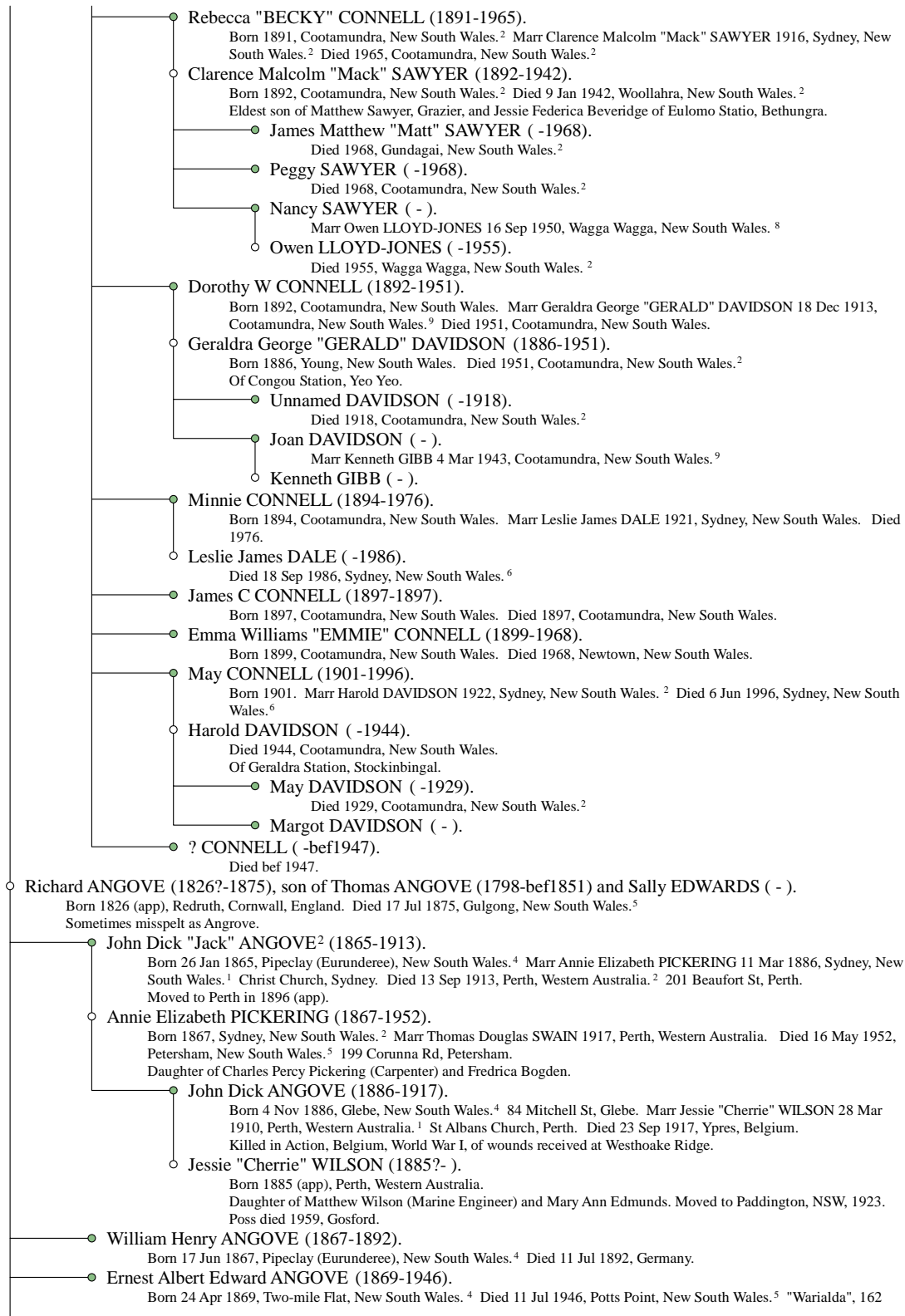


## Mary MERRITT (1831?-1908)









- Victoria Rd, Potts Point.  
Never Married.
- Arthur Thomas Robert ANGOVE (1872-1873).  
Born 12 May 1872, Gulgong, New South Wales.<sup>4</sup> Died 2 Jul 1873, Gulgong, New South Wales.<sup>5</sup>
- George Frederick BAKER (1827-1900), son of Andrew Wright BAKER (1791-1830) and Elizabeth Weekes FITCH (1792-1845).  
Born 1827, Walmer, Kent, England. Christened 25 Mar 1827, Walmer, Kent, England.<sup>10</sup> Marr Sarah Wilkinson EPSLEY 8 Jul 1848, Deal, Kent, England.<sup>1</sup> St Leonard's Parish Church, Deal. Died 3 Jul 1900, Concord, New South Wales.<sup>5</sup> Oberwinter, Sydney St, Concord. Alderman of Concord Municipal Council. There is also a christening record for George Frederick Baker, of same parentage, for 21st May, 1824 in Deal, Kent (IGI) - perhaps a brother who died as an infant?

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#### Sources

1. "Marriage Certificate".
2. "BMD Index".
3. "Cemetery Records".
4. "Birth Certificate".
5. "Death Certificate".
6. "Ryerson Index to Death Notices".
7. "Military Records".
8. "Newspaper Death Notice".
9. "Newspaper Marriage Notice".
10. "IGI".

#### The Known Descendants of Mary Merritt

#### **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS:**

Assistance from Lesley Booth and Gayle Thomsett, fellow Baker family researchers, gratefully received. Correspondence between Gayle and Mrs Margot Pye, Mary's great-granddaughter, from the 1980s provided leads which helped identify the circumstances of John Cliff's death.

The contents of the Gulgong Guardian from its inception in 1871 to late 1873 have been collated and annotated with information from other sources in Barry Baldwin and Ruth Boyd-Davis's "Diary of a Goldfield", self published in 2001. This book provides a fascinating snapshot of the daily goings-on in the town. Only a very small amount of this information has been used here.

Holtermann Collection images from the Mitchell Collection, State Library of New South Wales.

The Miner's Right: a tale of the Australian goldfields, by Rolf Boldrewood, was first published as a serial in the Town & Country Journal, Sydney, in January to December 1880. Published in novel form by Macmillan, 1927, London.