

**Family Story of:**  
**John and Mary Ann Hardman**  
1. Lancashire and Yorkshire, England  
2. Four Mile Flat Goldfield near Avoca, Victoria



*Remains of: Four Mile Flat Goldfield, near Avoca, Victoria*

***Book 2 – John and Mary Ann Hardman – Victoria***

John and Mary's arrival in Australia had for years been somewhat uncertain, but it now appears that the lure of gold fever at the **Victorian Goldfields** had attracted them during the 1850's:

- **John Hardman** travelling first with his brother-in-law **Robert Foster**, arriving in Melbourne, Victoria per the ship "**Atkins**" on 2 August 1853
- **Mary Ann Hardman** (nee Foster) *arriving some years later*:

## Victorian Gold Rush



The first popular gold rush of the 19th century, was the California gold rush which started with the discovery of gold in Coloma, California in 1848. Close on the heels of California gold rush came the Australian version, the Victorian gold rush. Comparable to the California gold rush in many ways and the extent of its cultural and economic influence, the Victorian gold rush started in 1851 with the announcement of the discovery of gold in Victoria. Among the very first of these discoveries was made by a hut keeper at a location now known as the Specimen Gully. Soon enough, gold was discovered in other locations, including in Ballarat, and Bendigo, both in Victoria. These discoveries led to a gold rush, where more than 500,000 Australians, Europeans and Chinese rushed to Victoria to stake their claim to a fortune built on gold.

### Gold Rush of Australia

The Victorian gold rush is also known as the Australian gold rush because it was the first major gold rush of Australia. A major find was first announced on 12 February, 1851, when prospector Edward Hargraves claimed to have discovered a goldfield in Bathurst, New South Wales. The New South Wales government awarded Edward Hargraves with \$10,000 for this find. This finding of gold was soon surpassed by the size and extent of gold mines discovered in the towns of Ballarat and Bendigo. Both these towns are located within 150 km of Melbourne. With the discovery of gold in these towns, the Victorian gold rush, or the Australian gold rush, had started in earnest.

In 1850, the population of Victoria was about 76,000. Within 10 years, it had increased seven fold to 540,000. This statistic alone should give a hint about the extent and popularity of the gold rush, and about the number of prospectors, adventurers, miners and workers it attracted to the colony in a short period of time. People came to Victoria from far and wide -one of the first Chinatowns in Australia, and the second in the whole western world, was found in Melbourne by the many Chinese who came to Victoria with the gold rush. Thousands of British and Europeans prospectors too headed for Victoria in the gold rush -it has been estimated that up to 2% of the population of the United Kingdom moved to Victoria in the 1850s. The total population of Australia increased threefold from 430,000 in 1851 to 1.7 million in 1871. The gold rush heavily influenced the city of Melbourne too. As the capital of Victoria, and the major city closest to the mining towns, Melbourne's population increased exponentially with the gold rush.

Within months of the discovery of gold in Victoria, Melbourne's population grew from 25,000 to 40,000 inhabitants, and by 1865 Melbourne had overtaken Sydney as the largest and richest Australian city. Melbourne continued to grow exponentially for the next 4 decades and later too, and by 1880, it was the largest and the richest city in the British Empire after London. These numbers of growth for Australia, Victoria and Melbourne give a hint of the extent of the Victorian gold rush - unsurprisingly, many estimate it to be the largest gold rush in history.

### **The Gold Miners of Victoria, and their Mines**

Locations that were previously forlorn developed townships overnight as miners in search for fortune came from Sydney and Melbourne. Beechworth, Ballarat and Bendigo were the most prominent miners' towns. Miners trekked on horseback or on coach to reach these towns, and from there to their goldfields. They pitched their tents, which they bought with them, and lived a hard life in the open. It was especially bad when it rained, or when it was cold in the winter. There was no facility of sewerage, and people had to use toilets that were little more than holes dug in ground. Apart from tents, many built huts and other types of tenements from wood and other materials they could lay their hands on. Usually the men who came to work there came alone, but as towns developed many also brought their wives and family with them. These men were the ones who first built sturdier homes in the mining towns.

This was the time of the Victorian age, and at that time, children were thought of as little more than short adults. If they were physically capable, and the family circumstances were not good, even children were expected to work; and the ones in the mining towns of Australia did just that. By 1852, there were about 12,000 children in the mines of Victoria, most of them helping their parents in their digs. But even so, as conditions improved, schools sprung up in canvas tents. These schools catered to hundred to children whose parents were working in the gold fields.

Initially, much of the gold that was mined was of the alluvial kind -this is the gold that is found in river beds and creeks. The action of moving water washes away rocks and other substances containing the gold until the remaining rock or soil is rich in gold. Alluvial gold was separated from the ore by panning. Panning is one of the oldest gold mining processes; it works on the idea of the higher specific gravity of the metal. To pan for gold, the deposit or ore is placed in a pan and mixed with water. On agitating this mix, gold, with other heavier materials, will settle in the bottom because it is heavier than soil or plain rock. In the initial days of the gold rush, the soil at some places was so rich that there have been reports of miners scooping as much as 96 ounces of gold from a single pan in a single day! That is worth as much as \$100,000 in today's prices.

But these alluvial deposits did not last long -soon, miners had to dig for buried gold. This was done by finding the richer deposits, called seams, and following the leads of gold minerals by digging shafts after it. Leads referred to the gold bearing deposits, and following them meant that the miners would get relatively gold-rich ores from that shaft. The shafts were dug as deep as 30 metres; for deeper shafts, the miners used heavier machinery.

*Extracted from the Internet – “Pan for Gold”*

# JOHN HARDMAN - VICTORIA

**Until recently, shipping records had shown no trace of the Hardman arrival in Victoria, and for many years it was thought they may have reached Australia through South Australia.**

**The discovery by Maree Redman (a few years ago) of the arrival of the ship “Akins” in Melbourne on 2 August 1853 was to solve part of the puzzle.**

Port of Embarkation	Name of Passenger	Adults		Children between 14 and 18 months		Infants under 18 months	Profession, Occupation, or Calling of Passenger	English		Scottish		Irish		American		Other		Port at which Passenger was Contracted to Land	
		M.	F.	M.	F.			M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.		
LIVERPOOL	Brought forward	12	38	12	10	4	3	6	13	2	11	0	2	36	0	2	1	24	1
	379 Samuel West		21				James	/											
	380 John Jones		20				do	/											
	381 Thomas Padgett		20				do	/											
	382 Thomas Clarke		23				Seaman	/											
	383 James Harrison		19				do	/											
	384 William Black		29				James	/											
	385 John Clegg		24				do	/											
	386 John Spratt		25				Seaman	/											
	387 William Shea		23				James	/											
	388 John do		23					/											
	389 John do		36				Clerk	/											
	390 Edmund Little		28				Carpenter	/											
	391 Joseph Dennis		29				James	/											
	392 Henry May		28				Clerk	/											
	393 Charles Rodger		29				do	/											
	394 Charles Colman		25				do	/											
	395 Thomas Turner		48				Butcher	/											
	396 Martin Monaghan		21				Labourer	/											
	397 Patrick do		19				do	/											
	398 Ralph Green		21				Baker	/											
	399 Mary Connolly		44				Painter	/											
	400 Thomas Lamb		24				Clerk	/											
	401 Robert Foster		28				do	/											
	402 John Hardman		28				do	/											
	403 James Boardman		28				do	/											
	404 John Hall		26				Sawyer	/											
	405 Richard Jackson		25				James	/											
	406 Selma do		24				"	/											
	407 Emily Morrison		28				do	/											
	408 John do		18				do	/											
	409 Robert Webb		20				Draper	/											
	410 Joseph Little		43				James	/											
	411 William Bennett		40				do	/											
	412 Herbert Parker		31				Minister	/											
	413 Edwin do		26				do	/											
	414 Robert Rogers		21				Farmer	/											
	415 John do		25				do	/											
	416 Mary Connolly		22				do	/											
	417 John do		21				do	/											
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**John Hardman** is listed on the list of passengers next to **Robert Foster** (his brother-in-law). The arrival of Robert Foster has also been a mystery as most of his brothers had been previously accounted for. Both men are listed as 28years of age and their occupations both listed as clerks. Their correct ages would be more like 32yrs and 37yrs respectively, but precise reporting of their age was probably not of a huge concern to them both and the younger age would have improved their prospects of employment.

Both John Hardman and Robert Foster were married but there is no sign of either wife, Mary Ann Hardman (nee Foster) or Margaret Ann Foster (nee Whelan) amongst the passengers of the ship “Atkins”.

A Family History Tour of England, Wales and Ireland in August/September 2015, was to shed some light on the non-arrival of John Hardman’s wife and to back up the arrival of John Hardman per the ship “Atkins” in 1853.

While visiting Ashton-Under-Lyne in Lancashire we visited the **Library**, just to see if there may be any trace of the Hardman family there eg list of cotton mill employees, maps etc, not really expecting any information of consequence.

Most of the cotton mill records had not been preserved so we were somewhat disappointed.

The only material dating back to the 1850’s were two large bound ledger volumes of Ashton-Under-Lyne Bank Deposit accounts. These were duly brought from the bowels of the library for us to peruse.



After quite a considerable amount of time Pam and I eventually poured over the contents of the first ledger book without any trace of information pertaining to the Hardman family.

All appeared lost but Pam insisted we look at the first few pages of the second ledger volume and after turning about five pages, we hit the “jackpot”.

The name **Mary Ann Hardman** headed one page and then closely followed over the next few pages with the name **John Hardman** and then **William Hardman**, the father of John Hardman.



## JOHN HARDMAN – LETTER FROM MELBOURNE, VIC TO WIFE MARY ANN IN ENGLAND

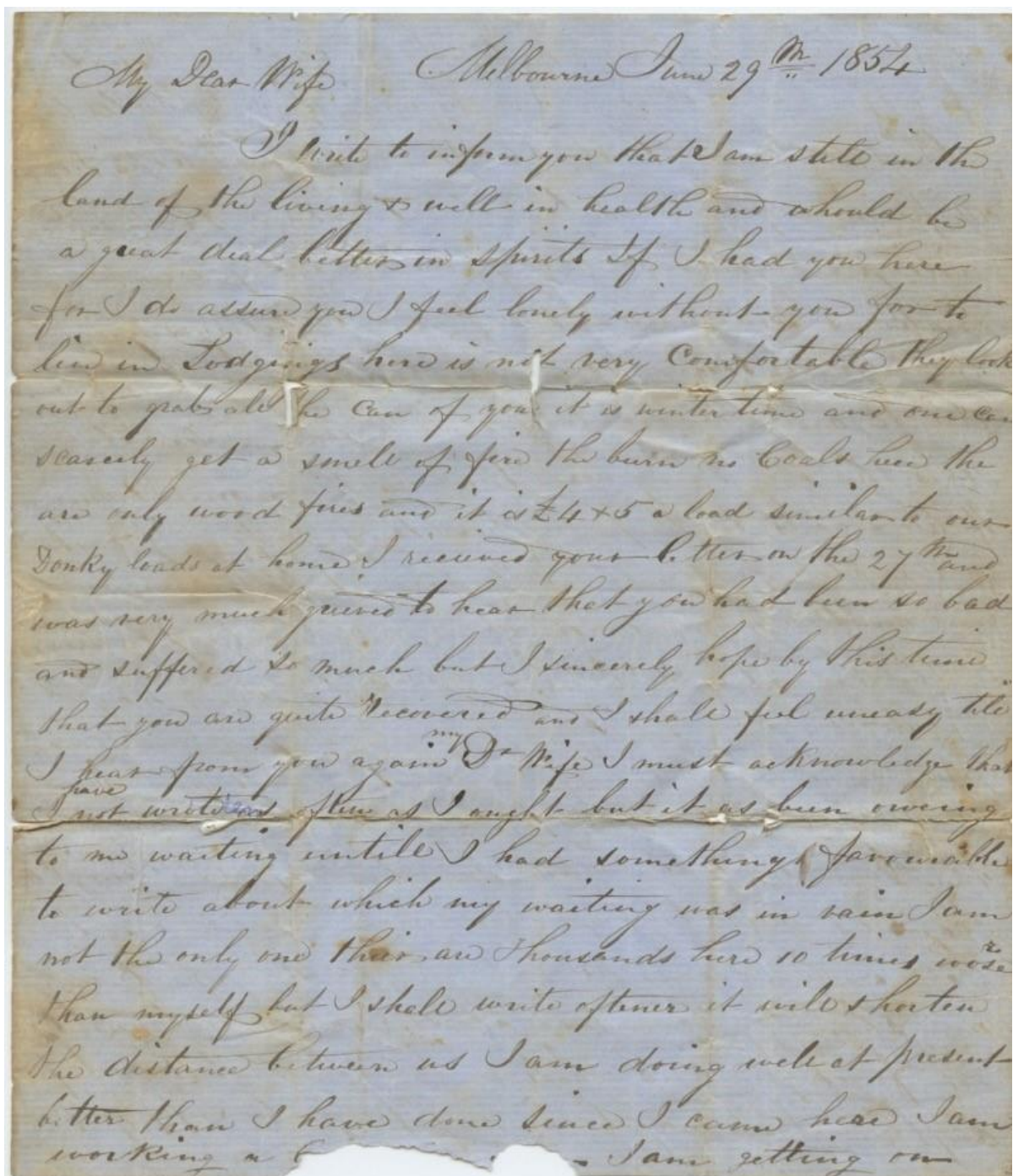
In late 2016 Pamela Malone (nee Hardman) had her DNA tested through **Ancestry**. As a consequence, various **DNA matches** are provided through **Ancestry**.

Among the 3<sup>rd</sup> Cousin matches was a person with the Ancestry name: **WilliamAlfredJohn**

Upon examining his family tree it was apparent that **WilliamAlfredJohn** was directly descended from Emily Constance Armstrong (nee Hardman), his name being **William Alfred John Armstrong**, great grandson of Emily Constance Hardman.

It was after several exchanges of emails that a document emerged – an original 4 page letter:

- ✓ Written from Melbourne, Victoria
- ✓ Dated 29 June 1854
- ✓ Handwritten by John Hardman to his wife Mary Ann Hardman who was still back in England.



My Dear Wife Melbourne June 29<sup>th</sup> 1854

I write to inform you that I am still in the land of the living & well in health and should be a great deal better in spirits if I had you here for I do assure you I feel lonely without you for to live in Lodgings here is not very comfortable they look out to grab all the fun of you it is winter time and one can scarcely get a smell of fire the burn no Coals here the are only wood fires and it is £4 + 5 a load similar to our Donkey loads at home I received your letter on the 27<sup>th</sup> and was very much grieved to hear that you had been so bad and suffered so much but I sincerely hope by this time that you are quite recovered and I shall feel uneasy till I hear from you again <sup>my</sup> Dear Wife I must acknowledge that I have not written you often as I ought but it has been owing to me waiting until I had something favorable to write about which my waiting was in vain I am not the only one there are thousands here 10 times worse than myself but I shall write oftener it will shorten the distance between us I am doing well at present better than I have done since I came here I am working a little and I am getting on

first-rate my wages is pretty fair but in course  
of a few months, when a chance offers I shall be  
able very near to double them and I hope Dear  
Wife in a few years to gather together that which  
will place you & me out of the reach of want and  
make us independent of any Arbitrary & tyrannical  
(<sup>3.3.3</sup> family manager) Manager. I am very steady I never  
drink any intoxicating drink I am a Teetotaler.  
It is the only thing here that a man must mind  
if he wants to keep his health & money for it  
is complete poison the sell here it kills hundreds  
and makes many mad it is sending people here  
to the Lunatic asylum & the Grave daily nay I  
might say hourly I have not forgot you my Dear  
you are never absent from my thoughts and I am  
looking on with patience & resignation for  
the time to arrive when we shall if the Almighty  
spare us meet to part no more I shall send  
you a handsome present the first opportunity  
and show my Dear that at so great a distance I do  
not forget you and whatever you do don't want for  
anything that may be in my power to supply you

with. If you want money write immediately and you  
shall have it prompt. I can assure you my Dear  
nothing in this world will give me greater pleasure than  
to contribute to the Comforts of the Wife of my heart.  
I may truly say that absence makes the heart grow fonder.  
Remember me kindly to John Greenwood and tell him  
there is an old friend in Melbourne named W. Hardman  
that as long as <sup>the</sup> paper will ~~be~~ <sup>send</sup> for an old  
rusty Newspaper or two from him which will be thank-  
fully received and highly appreciated. My poor Jack who is  
17000 Miles away does not forget him.  
Now the last but not the least give my respects and  
wishes to my old & true friend James Platt and  
tell him I wish I had him here he would I am sure  
have gone a head but I am proud to hear that he has  
got the Post he has for I am sure there is not a man  
in Ashton more deserving of it & tell him I hope  
- which I am sure he will in my absence to kind  
you and do whatever he can for you and I shall  
not forget him for it I shall send him a present  
as soon as I get an opportunity ask him to send  
me a few lines & let me know how things are  
going on and I will send him a few lines shortly.  
Remember me to all old friends & Remain  
your faithful & affectionate husband  
John Hardman

Now Mary Ann you must not fail to write immediately  
 a letter of all particulars and let me know what your wishes  
 and Intentions are. If you feel any desire to come out you  
 must write quick and I will send you money so that  
 if you wish to come you may come comfortable <sup>and</sup> independent  
 of any one my kind love to your Mother Brothers & Sisters  
 accept the same yourself good by God bless you  
 direct for me  
 John Hardman  
 Post Office  
 Melbourne  
 Australia  
 writes soon writes soon writes soon  
 write on the directions  
 the Ship or Steamer  
 or Overland which  
 you wish to send by  
 Good Night

Letter is translated on the following pages:

Page 1

My Dear Wife

Melbourne June 29<sup>th</sup> 1854

I write to inform you that I am still in the land of the living & well in health and should be a great deal better in spirits if I had you here for I do assure you I feel lonely without you for to live in lodgings here is not very comfortable they look out to grab all they can of you it is Winter time and one scarcely gets a smell of fire they burn no coals here and only wood fires and it is £4-£5 a load similar to Donkey loads at home

I received your letter on the 27<sup>th</sup> was very much grieved that you had been so and suffered so much but I sincerely hope that by this time you are quite recovered and I shall feel uneasy till I hear from you again

My dear wife I must acknowledge I have not wrote often as I ought but it is as been owing to me waiting until I has something favourable to write about which my waiting was in vain

I am not the only one there are thousands here 10 times worse than myself but I shall write often it will shorten the distance between us. I am doing well at present better than I have done since I came here I am working \*\*\*\*\* I am getting on

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first rate my wage is pretty fair but in course of a few months when a chance offers I shall be able very near to double them and I hope my Wife in a few years to gather together that is I will place you & me out of the reach of want make us independent of any arbitrary & tyrannical family managers

I am very steady I never drink any intoxicating drink I am a Tea Total

It is the only thing here that a man must not if he wants to keep his health and money for it is complete poison they sell here it kills hundreds and makes many mad it is sending to the lunatic asylum & the grave daily nay I might say hourly

I have not forgot you my dear you are never absent from my thoughts and I am looking inward with patience & resignation for the time to arrive when we shall if the Almighty spares us meet to part no more

I shall send you a handsome present the first opportunity and shows my Dear that so a distance I do not forget you and whatever you do don't want for anything that may be in my power to supply you

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with if you want money write immediately and you shall have it prompt for I can assure you my Dear nothing in the world will give me greater pleasure than to contribute to the comforts of the Wife of my heart

I may truly say that absence makes the heart grow fonder

Remember me kindly to John Greenwood and tell there is an old friend in Melbourne named Joe Hac\*\*\*\* that as \*\*\*\*\* rusty newspaper or two from him which will be fully received and rightly appreciated for poor Jack 17000 miles away does not forget him

Now the last but not the least give my respects and well wishes to my and tried friend James Platt tell him I wish I had him here he would I am sure have gone ahead but I am proud that he too got the post he has for I am sure there is not a man in Ashton (Ashton Under Lyne) more deserving of it & tell him I hope which I am sure he will in my absence be kind to you and do whatever he can for you and I shall not forget him for it I shall send him a present as soon as I get an opportunity ask him to send me a few lines to let me know how things are going on and I will send him a few lines shortly

Remember me to all old friends

I remain your faithful and affectionate husband

*John Hardman*

**Page 4**

*Now Mary Ann you must not fail to write immediately a letter of all particulars and let me know what you wish and intentions are if you feel any desire to come out you must write quick and I will send you money so that if you wish to come you may come comfortable and independent if any one day \*\*\*\**

*\*\*\* to your Mother Brothers & Sister accept the same yourself good bye God bless you*

*dearest-for-now  
Yours Sincerely  
JwHardman*

*John Hardman  
Post Office  
Melbourne  
Australia*

*Write on the directions  
The ship or steamer  
Or overland vehicle  
You wish to send by*

<u>write</u>	<u>write</u>	<u>write</u>
<u>soon</u>	<u>soon</u>	<u>soon</u>

*Good Night*

## MARY ANN HARDMAN - VICTORIA

After Mary Ann Hardman closed her bank account at Ashton-Under-Lyne on 2 May 1857, it appears that plans were soon underway for Mary Ann Hardman to migrate to Australia to join her husband John Hardman in the Victorian Goldfields.

There is no evidence found at this stage of her shipping arrival, but the document below with the birth of her daughter Ada Ann Hardman provides the evidence of her emigration:

SCHEDULE A.					SCHEDULE A.		
1855 BIRTHS in the District of <i>Avoca</i> in the Colony					of Victoria. Registered by <i>James R. R.</i>		
CHILD.			PARENTS.		INFORMANT.		WITNESSES.
No.	When and where Born.	Name, and whether present or not.	FATHER.	MOTHER.	Signature, Description, and Residence of Informant.	(1) Accouchement. (2) Name by whom certified. And (3) Signature of Occupiers, or other Witnesses.	When Registered and where.
354	At the 24th October 1858 at Four Mile Flat Avoca	Ada Anne Hardman	John Hardman Miner 34 years Lancashire England	Maryanne Foster 28 years Lancashire England	<i>John Hardman</i> The Father Four Mile Flat Avoca	<i>Mrs Rowlands</i> 1858	at Avoca Nov 20th

I, \_\_\_\_\_  
A REGISTRATION OFFICER OF THE STATE OF VICTORIA, IN THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA, DO HEREBY  
CERTIFY THAT THE ABOVE IS A TRUE COPY OF AN ENTRY IN A REGISTER  
KEPT IN THIS OFFICE.  
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNMENT STATIST.  
MELBOURNE.

Some 5 years after the death of their first child, Ambrose Henry Hardman, birth certificate details herald the arrival of their next child, some thirteen years after their marriage in Lancashire:

Ada Ann Hardman born 24 October 1858 at **Four Mile Flat**, Avoca on the Victorian Goldfields.  
On the birth certificate it further stated: John Hardman - a miner - 34 yrs  
Maryanne Foster - 28 yrs.

Almost two years later their second daughter was born:  
Emily Constance Hardman born 14 June 1860 at **Four Mile Flat**, Avoca.

SCHEDULE A.					SCHEDULE A.		
1860 BIRTHS in the District of <i>Avoca</i> in the Colony					of Victoria. Registered by <i>James R. R.</i>		
CHILD.			PARENTS.		INFORMANT.		WITNESSES.
No.	When and where Born.	Name, and whether present or not.	FATHER.	MOTHER.	Signature, Description, and Residence of Informant.	(1) Accouchement. (2) Name by whom certified. And (3) Signature of Occupiers, or other Witnesses.	When Registered and where.
418	At the 14th June 1860 at Four Mile Flat Avoca	Emily Constance Hardman	John Hardman Miner 34 years Lancashire England	Maryanne Foster 28 years Lancashire England	<i>John Hardman</i> The Father Four Mile Flat Avoca	<i>Mrs Rowlands</i> 1860	at Avoca June 14th

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS IS A TRUE COPY OF AN ENTRY IN A REGISTER KEPT IN THIS OFFICE  
IN THE STATE OF VICTORIA, IN THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA.  
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNMENT STATIST.  
MELBOURNE. 13 May 1860  
86/43440

REGISTRATION OFFICER



**Remains of Gold Diggings at Four Mile Flat (photo John Malone)**

## **Avoca District, Victoria - Early Settlement and the Gold Rush**

The explorer and surveyor **Thomas Mitchell** was the first European recorded to have travelled through the Avoca district. He found the area more temperate in climate and better watered than inland New South Wales, and he encouraged settlers to take up land in what he described as "**Australia Felix**" (*Latin for "fortunate Australia" or "happy Australia"*).

The Blood Hole massacre occurred at Middle Creek, near Glengower at the end of 1839 or early 1840 killing an unknown number of Dja Dja Wurrung people.

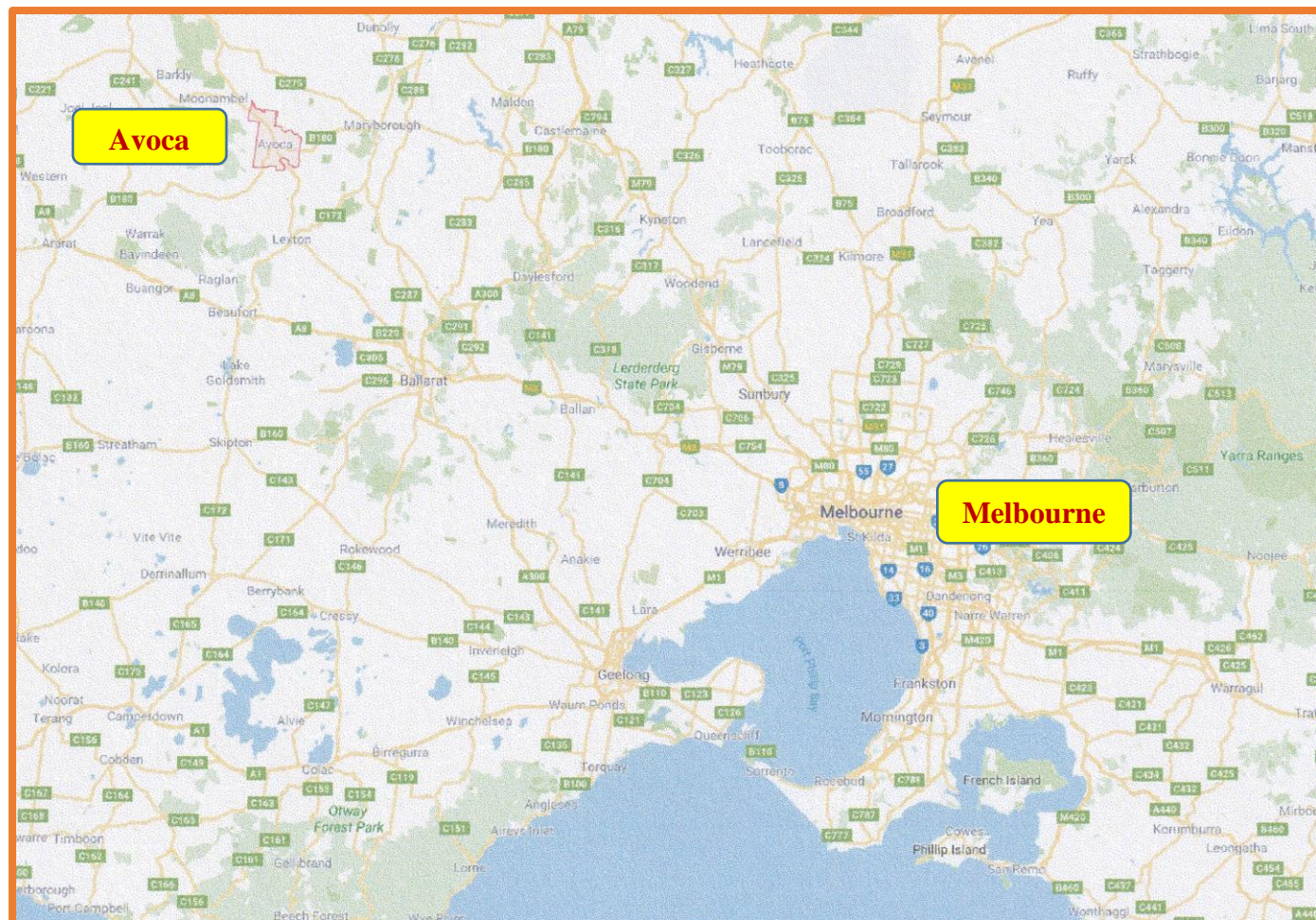
By 1850 there were several large sheep runs, and pastoral settlement was well established.

Like Ballarat and many other Victorian towns, Avoca sprang into being suddenly in the 1850s with the discovery of gold. Gold was first found in Victoria in 1849 in the Pyrenees Ranges near Avoca but it was not for another two years that the first discovery of any importance took place. In 1851 a shepherd called James Esmond found gold at Clunes, forty kilometres from present-day Avoca, setting off a gold rush to the region. **In 1853 gold was found at Four Mile Flat, near Avoca**, and the main lead at Avoca itself was opened up a few months later.

By the beginning of December 1853, the population had increased from 100 to 2,200, and by June the following year, Avoca, with a population of 16,000, was regarded as one of Victoria's more important gold rush districts.

With a Court, a police station, Post Office (opened 1 September 1854), gold wardens, churches, and schools, Avoca had established itself as an administrative centre. This was a crucial development in its survival as a town, for when the gold miners left their Avoca claims to travel to the new Dunolly rush in 1856, Avoca continued to serve as the focus of the region's commercial and administrative life.

With the [Lamplough](#) rush (near Avoca) in 1859, miners returned to the Avoca district, and in that year rich deposits were also opened up at **Homebush, established on the site of the 1853 Four Mile Flat rush**. This discovery brought renewed activity to the district. The value of gold mining to the economy of the area may be seen in a single statistic: from 1859 to 1870 gold worth £2,500,000 was sent from Avoca to Melbourne. (Even this huge sum may represent as little as one third of the gold won as private sales were not included.) On 16 April 1889, gold mining ceased in Avoca with the closure of the Golden Stream Company mine. All that is visible today of the Golden Stream Mine is several large mullock heaps of mainly white pipeclay on the west side of the [Sunraysia Highway](#) between the railway crossing and the Avoca Cemetery.



### **Melbourne to Avoca - 180km**

A chance visit to the Avoca Visitors Centre in 2006 uncovered a history article on the settlement of Homebush (previously known as Four Mile Flat).

The eight page chapter on Homebush was photocopied and it wasn't until perusal that night that an important discovery was revealed.

*The article included the following: “.... One acre two roods of land at Homebush, Four Mile Flat, near Avoca, was temporarily reserved from sale in December 1862, for the use of the Wesleyan Church.*

*On the 28<sup>th</sup> January 1864, the Avoca Mail reported that the Wesleyan Chapel at Homebush had been completely gutted ‘by some sacrilegious thieves’. All the internal fittings, including windows, seats, books and even the kerosene lamp, were removed overnight. ‘Acting on information received, the police discovered the whole of the stolen property on the premises of ..... a butcher living at Homebush’ and he and his wife were accordingly arrested.*

*At the Police Court, evidence was given by James Farquhar, the keeper of the chapel, and also by **John Hardman**, who was chairman of a committee for improving the chapel.”*

**"Avoca Mail" (Victoria)**

***Thursday 11 February 1864***

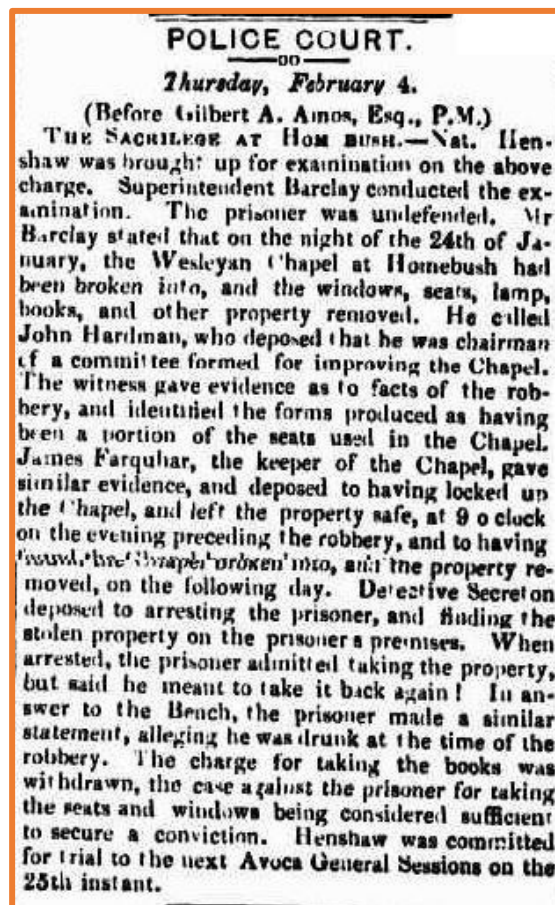
**POLICE COURT.**

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Thursday, February 4.

(Before Gilbert A. Amos, Esq., P.M.)

**The Sacrilege at Homebush.**—Nat. Henshaw was brought up for examination on the above charge. Superintendent Barclay conducted the examination. The prisoner was undefended. Mr Barclay stated that on the night of the 24th of January, the Wesleyan chapel at Homebush had been broken into, and the windows, seats, lamp, books, and other property removed. He called **John Hardman**, who deposed that he was chairman of a Committee formed for improving the Chapel. The witness gave evidence as to facts of the robbery and identified the forms produced as having been a portion of the seats used in the Chapel. James Farquhar, the keeper of the Chapel, gave similar evidence, and deposed to having locked up the Chapel, and left the property safe, at 9 o'clock on the evening preceding the robbery, and to having found the Chapel broken into, and the property removed, on the following day. Detective Secreton deposed to arresting the prisoner, and finding the stolen property on the prisoner's premises. When arrested, the prisoner admitted taking the property, but said he meant to take it back again! In answer to the Bench, the prisoner made a similar statement, alleging he was drunk at the time of the robbery. The charge for taking the books was withdrawn, the case against the prisoner for taking the seats and windows being considered sufficient to secure a conviction. Henshaw was committed for trial to the next Avoca General Sessions on the 25th instant.



## “Leader” (Melbourne, Victoria)

*Saturday 13 February 1864*

### **MARYBOROUGH**

**Robbing a Chapel.** — -On the night of the 24th of January, the Wesleyan Chapel, at Homebush, near Avoca, was broken into, and a general clearance effected of the property inside the building, comprising the seats, lamps, prayer, hymn and Sunday school books, and. even the windows were taken out and removed. The robbery was discovered early on the following morning. The police were immediately informed, and, suspicion attaching to a not very reputable character, named Nat. Henshaw, residing at Homebush, Detective Secreton arrested Henshaw, and discovered the stolen property inside of the prisoner's tent. Henshaw was brought up for examination at the police court, Avoca, on Thursday last, and the above facts having been proved by the evidence of the detective, and of Messrs **Hardman** and Farquhar, the prisoner was committed to take his trial at the next Avoca general sessions. — M. and D. Advertiser, February 10.

an examination, the window was found to be open, and a quantity of goods tossed about the store. Some moleskin trousers, several pair of boots, and a quantity of candles were missing, and, but for the timely interruption, no doubt a large haul would have been made.—*M. and D. Advertiser*, February 8.

**ROBBING A CHAPEL.**—On the night of the 24th of January, the Wesleyan Chapel, at Homebush, near Avoca, was broken into, and a general clearance effected of the property inside the building, comprising the seats, lamps, prayer, hymn and Sunday school books, and even the windows were taken out and removed. The robbery was discovered early on the following morning. The police were immediately informed, and, suspicion attaching to a not very reputable character, named Nat. Henshaw, residing at Homebush, Detective Secreton arrested Henshaw, and discovered the stolen property inside of the prisoner's tent. Henshaw was brought up for examination at the police court, Avoca, on Thursday last, and the above facts having been proved by the evidence of the detective, and of Messrs Hardman and Farquhar, the prisoner was committed to take his trial at the next Avoca general sessions.—*M. and D. Advertiser*, February 10.

*The name Hardman also appears in the following 2 stories relating to local affairs and politics at Homebush (Four Mile Flat).*

- [It is presumed that the Hardman referred to is indeed our John Hardman]*

### **“Avoca Mail” (Victoria)**

***Thursday 25 February 1864***

#### **MEETING AT HOMEBUSH.**

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A numerously attended public meeting of the inhabitants of Homebush was held on Tuesday evening, at the Star Hotel, Homebush, to take into consideration the application made for adding to the Bung Bong Farmers' Common an area of ground adjoining Homebush Common, and of memorialising the Board of Land and Works to refuse the above application.

Mr A. H. Kenyon was voted to the chair, and briefly explained the object of the meeting. The residents of Homebush had reason to believe that an application had been made for the area of ground situated on the southern boundary of the Homebush Common, and including the Homebush township and gold-workings; the natural effect of which application, if granted, would be to cut off as it were a great majority of the inhabitants of Homebush from the Gold-fields Common, as by far the greatest number of the inhabitants reside above the boundary of their Common, and if the Managers of the Bung Bong Farmers' Common succeeded in obtaining this ground, the people residing on the area applied for would thus be compelled to forfeit their right of pasturage to their own Common or pay fees to both Commons. He (the Chairman) had no doubt when the matter was known in its true light that the Government would refuse the application. He had that morning forwarded a letter to their representative, Mr B. G. Davies, stating the facts of the case, and requesting him to lay them before the President of the Board of Land and Works; and further intimating that a public meeting would be held for the purpose of forwarding a memorial on the subject for presentation by him; and the Chairman was sure Mr Davies' representation would have the desired effect.

He then called on Mr Enderby (one of the Managers of the Homebush Common), to move the first resolution. Mr Enderby said he had great pleasure in moving the resolution standing in his name, which was as follows: — "That a memorial on the subject of an application for an area of ground at Homebush be forwarded to Mr B. G. Davies, M.L.A., for presentation to the Board of Land and Works."

The memorial is as follows: —

"To the Hon. the President of the Board of Land and Works.

"The memorial of the undersigned, inhabitants of Homebush,

"Respectfully sheweth —

"That your memorialists have reason to believe that application has been made to enlarge Bung Bong Farmers' Common, by the addition of certain ground adjoining the Homebush Gold-fields Common.

"Your memorialists respectfully submit that the proposed addition would have the effect of debarring your memorialists from depasturing their stock on the Homebush Gold-fields Common, for the following reasons:—

"1. That your memorialists are residents on the ground applied for.

"2. That part of the proposed addition to the Bung Bong Farmers' Common includes and surrounds the township of Homebush, recently surveyed and sold.

"3. That the Homebush gold-workings intersect the greater part of the ground applied for.

"4. That your memorialists would have to pay the fees of both Commons in the event of the proposed application being complied with.

And, in conclusion, your memorialists respectfully pray that you will be pleased to refuse such application; or if such application be already granted, that you will be pleased to revoke such grant.

"And your memorialists will ever pray,"

Seconded by Mr D. Lyall, and carried unanimously.

After a desultory conversation, as to the propriety of consulting the Managers of the Bung Bong Farmers' Common, Mr Enderby moved, and Mr Callaby seconded, "That a committee be formed to carry out the above resolution; such committee to consist of Messrs Shiells, Callaby, **Hardman**, and the mover."

This resolution was put and carried unanimously.

Thanks were unanimously accorded to the Chairman, and the meeting terminated.

## MEETING AT HOMEBUSH.

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Mr A. H. Kenyon was voted to the chair, and briefly explained the object of the meeting. The residents of Homebush had reason to believe that an application had been made for the area of ground situated on the southern boundary of the Homebush Common, and including the Homebush township and gold-workings; the natural effect of which application, if granted, would be to cut off as it were a great majority of the inhabitants of Homebush from the Gold-fields Common, as by far the greatest number of the inhabitants reside above the boundary of their Common, and if the Managers of the Bung Bong Farmers' Common succeeded in obtaining this ground, the people residing on the area applied for would thus be compelled to forfeit their right of pasture to their own Common, or pay fees to both Commons. He (the Chairman) had no doubt when the matter was known in its true light that the Government would refuse the application. He had that morning forwarded a letter to their representative, Mr B. G. Davies, stating the facts of the case, and requesting him to lay them before the President of the Board of Land and Works; and further intimating that a public meeting would be held for the purpose of forwarding a memorial on the subject for presentation by him; and the Chairman was sure Mr Davies' representation would have the desired effect. He then called on Mr Enderby (one of the Managers of the Homebush Common) to move the first resolution.

Mr Enderby said he had great pleasure in moving the resolution standing in his name, which was as follows:—"That a memorial on the subject of an application for an area of ground at Homebush be forwarded to Mr B. G. Davies, M.L.A., for presentation to the Board of Land and Works."

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Seconded by Mr D. Lyall, and carried unanimously.

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This resolution was put and carried unanimously.

Thanks were unanimously accorded to the Chairman, and the meeting terminated.

**“Avoca Mail” (Victoria)**

***Saturday 15 October 1864***

**MESSRS GRANT AND DAVIES AT HOMEBUSH.**

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The ' free and independent ' of Homebush have always been noted for their consistent advocacy and support of liberal and progressive principles, and their love of fair play. The latter feeling induced the Homebush miners, at the last election when Mr Davies was denied a hearing by sundry burgesses and councillors of Avoca, to attend in considerable numbers, hoot down the hooters compel a hearing. And no doubt the feeling that Mr Davies had received very unfair treatment at the hands of certain Avoca residents who ought to have known better, greatly tended to swell the large majority of votes which Mr Davies obtained on that occasion over the Avoca candidate, Mr Vogel.

Messrs Grant and Davies again met the electors at Homebush on Saturday afternoon last, and most of the miners assembled at the Star Hotel, to hear the late members for the district give an account of their stewardship.

Mr A. H. Kenyon, of Homebush, was voted to the chair, and introduced the candidates to the meeting. Mr Grant was the first to speak, and, to our thinking, made a far better speech than he did at Avoca. Secure of the sympathies of his audience of electors, he handled a variety of topics, of public and local interest, in the most free and unreserved manner, and many of his points were loudly applauded.

He dilated upon the measures, past and contemplated, of the present Ministry, and referring to the dispute between the Borough Council and the Road Board, said the Government were always willing to carry out the wishes of the ratepayers. Referring to the Common Schools Act, he stated that it was the intention of the Government to introduce certain modifications which would render the act more workable, and prevent the "black coats" from obtaining that detrimental ascendancy which was frequently now the case. In answer to questions put by Messrs Callaby and **Hardman**, Mr Grant stated that he was most decidedly in favour of reforming the Upper House, by reducing the qualification of both of members and electors one-half, and also shortening the period of serving.

Mr Davies referred to his former visits, and the kind reception he had always met at the hands of the Homebush miners. He had then pledged himself to certain principles, which principles he had always endeavoured to carry out by his votes. The only subject upon which his opinions had changed was that of free trade: he was now in favour of a revision of the tariff, for the purpose of encouraging and fostering colonial manufactures. He had certainly not always been able to do as much as he could have wished for the local wants of the district; but he had always consistently tried to further, by his votes, the principles he had professed, and would continue to do so should the constituency again honour him with their suffrages.

Both candidates were well received, applauded at the conclusion of their speeches, and a unanimous vote of confidence in both was passed, on the motion of Messrs Enderby and **Hardman**.

A vote of thanks to the Chairman terminated the proceedings.

## MESSRS GRANT AND DAVIES AT HOMEBUSH.

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the conclusion of their speeches, and a unanimous vote of confidence in both was passed, on the motion of Messrs Enderby and Hardman.

A vote of thanks to the Chairman terminated the proceedings.

*\*\* The last reference to Hardman in October 1864 appears to usher in the next stage of the life story of John and Mary Ann Hardman and their two daughters Ada and Emily and their northward migration to Lambing Flat (Young) and Bendick Murrell, NSW.*