

Family Story of:
John and Mary Ann Hardman

1. Lancashire and Yorkshire, England

2. Four Mile Flat Goldfield near Avoca, Victoria

3. Bendick Murrell, NSW



Book 3 – *John and Mary Ann Hardman* – *Bendick Murrell*

JOHN and MARY ANN HARDMAN – NEW SOUTH WALES

According to death certificate information, John and Mary Ann Hardman spent 7 years in Victoria, before moving north to settle in NSW, giving his arrival in NSW as 1860-1861.

There is evidence however that John Hardman was still living at Four Mile Flat near Avoca, Victoria in 1864, as per the following newspaper article:

On the 28th 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."

John and Mary Ann Hardman were to later settle at **Bendick Murrell** near Young NSW, the most likely movement taking John and Mary Ann Hardman firstly from the Four Mile Flat Goldfields, Victoria to the:

Lambing Flat Goldfields

There is limited direct evidence but it appears most likely that John and Mary Ann Hardman and their two very young children Ada and Emily, ventured north and at least for a short period may have eagerly anticipated seeking their fortune on the Lambing Flat Goldfields (from which the township of Young NSW developed).



Gold was discovered in 1860 on part of the "Burrangong Station" Run belonging to squatter James White. A section of the property that had been once used to shelter ewes at lambing time was the locality where gold was initially found, hence the name for the new goldfield, "Lambing Flat".

Stockmen had camped at Lambing Flat on the banks of Burrangong Creek and one of the men was struck with the gold bearing appearance of the place and washed a spadeful of earth in a billy and secured a good prospect of gold.

The news that gold had been discovered was published in the Sydney Morning Herald on 4 August 1860 and thus began one of the biggest gold diggings in Australia.

As is to be expected in the discovery of a rich goldfield, the Lambing Flat field drew in thousands of miners and prospectors from both near and far.

Among the new arrivals were **1500 Chinese miners**, who staked their claim on the Lambing Flat field from its earliest days. The Chinese were organised labourers, arriving in NSW in groups of around 100 people, complete with a leader. This approach allowed them to undertake mining in a vastly more systematic way than European miners, who worked alone or in small groups.

The Chinese kept their distance from the European diggers well aware of the ill fate that had befallen their countrymen on the Victorian goldfields. However, their presence at Lambing Flat was destined to bring about the greatest anti-Chinese riots the continent has known.

Lambing Flat miners' camps 1860

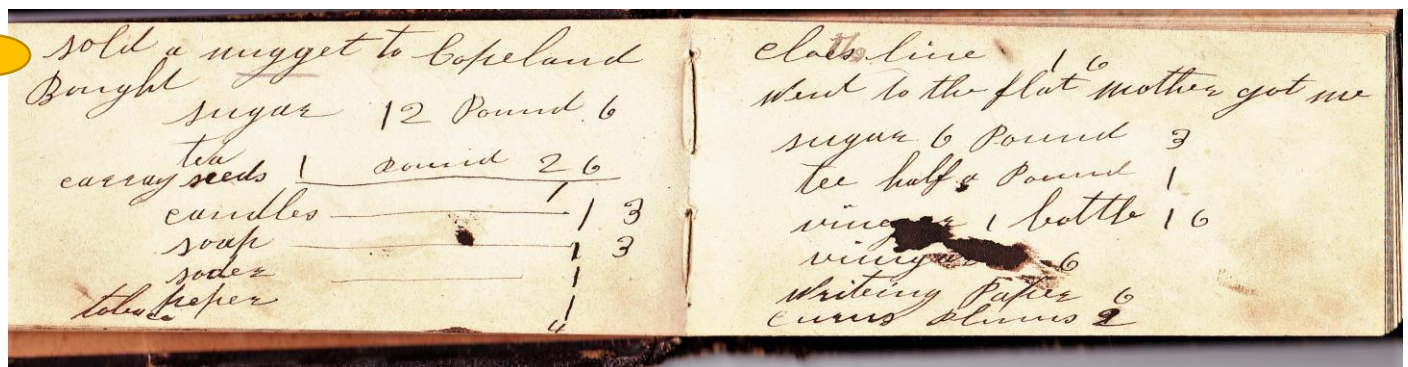


Hardman Family - the Lambing Flat Goldfields

There is only **circumstantial evidence** that the Hardman family were residents on the Lambing Flat Goldfield.

Mary Ann Hardman's diary (mentioned later in the article) shows the following entry:

'sold a **nugget** to **Copeland** – Bought – Sugar, Tea etc'

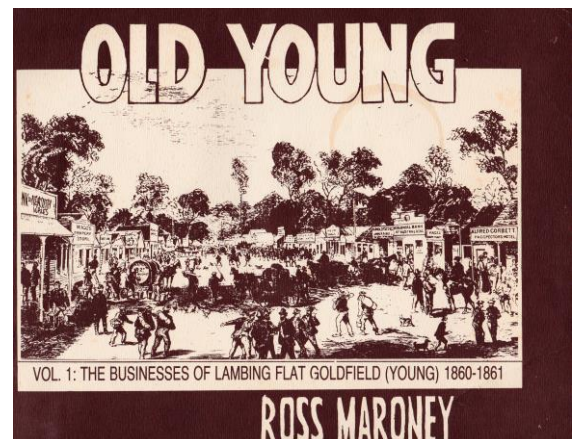


Ross Maroney's Book – "Old Young"

lists businesses on or near the Lambing Flat Goldfields (1860-1861).

Mr Copeland (Coupland) is listed as a storekeeper at:

- Tipperary Gully
- Spring Creek (*where Mary Ann's brother John Foster, plus wife and family, lived and mined*)
- Golden Point
- Chance Gully
- and owned land in Lambing Flat itself



R. Brown, storekeeper, Spring Creek or New Rush [15 May].

Mr. John Cunynghame's store, Tipperary Gully [23 October].

Mr. Copeland's store, Tipperary Gully [15 June]. Probably Thomas Coupland who had a store at Spring Creek in September, and at Golden Point, Chance Gully, in November, as well as owning land at Lambing Flat.

Land Selection

It is believed that as miners left Lambing Flat for goldfields further afield such as Grenfell, Forbes and Parkes, some miners had **other ideas**:

Many miners including John Hardman and his family, had their thoughts turned towards the **selection of land** following recent legislation changes by the NSW Government as below:

Robertson Land Acts

From Wikipedia

The **Crown Lands Acts 1861 (NSW)** were introduced by the New South Wales Premier, John Robertson, in 1861 to reform land holdings in New South Wales and in particular to break the **squatters'** domination of land tenure. The Acts allowed free selection of crown land and made redundant the limits of location, which limited sale of land to the Nineteen Counties which had applied since 1826.

Under the reforms unsurveyed land in an area which had been declared an agricultural reserve in designated unsettled areas could be selected and bought freehold in 40-to-320-acre lots of crown land, wherever situated at £1 per acre, on a deposit of five shillings per acre, the balance to be paid within three years, an interest-free loan of three-quarters of the price. Alternatively at the end of the three years, the balance could be treated as an indefinite loan, as long as 5% interest was paid each year.

The Crown Lands Acts consisted of two separate acts: The Crown Lands Alienation Act of 1861 and the Crown Lands Occupation Act of 1861.

Selectors were required to **live on their land for three years** and to make **improvements** worth £1 per acre. Speculation was to be prevented by **requiring actual residence on the land**.

In return pastoralists were protected by granting them, at the conclusion of their present leases, annual leases in the settled districts and five yearly leases elsewhere, with a maximum area or carrying capacity, and an increase in rent by appraisal of the runs. The pastoralist retained the pre-emptive right to buy one twenty-fifth of his lease in addition to improved areas, and also possessed the pre-lease to three times the area of the freehold. In addition they were to continue to possess the right to request the survey and auctioning of large parcels of their lease. This meant that they could bid at short notice for such land while other potential bidders were unaware that the land was on the market. The work of Alexander Grant McLean, Surveyor General of New South Wales facilitated the introduction of these Land Acts.

Subsequently, there were struggles between **squatters** and **selectors**, and the laws were circumvented by corruption and the acquisition of land by various schemes, such as the commissioning of selections to be passed eventually to squatters and the selection of key land such as land with access to water by squatters to maintain the viability of their pastoral leases. The Land Acts accelerated the alienation of crown land (**transfer of ownership of land**) that had been acquired under the principle of terra nullius, and hence accelerated the dispossession of indigenous Australians.

Bendick Murrell (Morrell)

It remains uncertain as to how long John and Mary Ann Hardman, plus their daughters Ada and Emily remained at Lambing Flat (*or even if they lived there at all*) before venturing approximately 25km to Bendick Murrell.

There were a number of other family members who also **emigrated to Australia** and who also were located at Bendick Murrell including:

- ✓ Mary Foster - mother of Mary Ann Hardman (*her husband John Foster died in England 1851*)
Mary Foster (nee Williams) selected land at Bendick Murrell on 22 January 1867 and died at Bendick Murrell on 15 June 1874 aged 93 yrs.
- ✓ James Chadwick Foster – son of Mary Foster & brother of Mary Ann Hardman
- ✓ Robert Foster – son of Mary Foster & brother of Mary Ann Hardman
- ✓ Thomas Foster – son of Mary Foster & brother of Mary Ann Hardman
- ✓ Joseph Foster – son of Mary Foster & brother of Mary Ann Hardman

Emigration timeline – Mary Foster and many of her children emigrated to Australia

<u>Date</u>	<u>Person</u>	<u>Ship Passage</u>
2 August 1853	John Hardman	Per ship “Atkins” to Melbourne, Vic Moved to 4 Mile Flat Goldfields, Avoca Vic
2 August 1853	Robert Foster	Per ship “Atkins” to Melbourne, Vic
10 December 1854	William Foster	Per ship “Marchioness of Londonderry”
10 December 1854	Joseph Foster	Per ship “Marchioness of Londonderry”
10 December 1854	James Foster	Per ship “Marchioness of Londonderry”
c1857-early 1858	Mary Ann Hardman (nee Foster)	Unknown arrival – then to 4 Mile Flat Goldfields, Victoria to be reunited with husband John Hardman. Gave birth to daughters Ada Ann Hardman (1858) and Emily Hardman (1860) on the Four Mile Flat Goldfield, Victoria.
c1857-early 1858	Mary Foster	Unknown arrival – probably emigrated with daughter Mary Ann Hardman
8 April 1862	John & Martha Foster + family	Per ship “Annie Wilson” sponsored by brother Robert Foster – <i>remained at Lambing Flat (Young)</i>
8 April 1862	Elizabeth Simpson (nee Foster) & daughter Hannah	Per ship “Annie Wilson” sponsored by brother Robert Foster – (<i>Elizabeth possibly lived at Bathurst</i>)

GREVILLE'S POST OFFICE DIRECTORY AND GAZETTEER OF NEW SOUTH WALES, 1872-77

MARENGO - a small township in the police district of Young, electorate of Yass Plains, county of Montague, is 239 miles south from Sydney. Route: Rail to Goulburn, coach to Marrow, thence 18 miles by horse, &c.

OFFICE: Post only. Mails close at G.P.O. on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Fridays at 4 p.m., and arrive at post town on Wednesday, Thursday, and Saturdays at 7.20 p.m.; Leave for Sydney on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays at 4.30 a.m., and arrive on Mondays, Tuesdays, and Saturdays at 7.10 a.m. An agricultural and pastoral district. The surrounding country is undulating, with occasional ridges and small flats of excellent soil. The geological formation is granite and limestone, with much alluvial deposit.

ADAMS, William, farmer, Marengo flat
Alder, John F.O., storekeeper
BATEMAN, William, farmer
Beaton, Josiah, innkeeper, Bendick Morrell
Bendle, John, farmer
Brennan, John, farmer
Broughton, William, grazier
Buttenshaw, Henry, blacksmith
Beaumont, Thomas, grazier
Bergin, Patrick, farmer, Marengo flat
Bruce, Henry, laborer
Bryer, William, laborer
Brune, James, farmer, Calabash
Bucklin, Edward, farmer
Bucklin, Thomas, farmer
CHEN, Elizabeth, innkeeper, The Gap
Chew, Henry, grazier, The Gap
Chew, John, grazier, The Gap
Cree, Michael, farmer
Culliva, George, farmer
Cunning, Thomas, farmer, Calabash
Cussey, Michael, storekeeper
Carpenter, John, farmer, Calabash
D'ARCY, Michael, storekeeper
Deleery, Thomas, carrier
Dean, John, pondkeeper
EDDY, James, farmer, Calabash
Eddy, Nicholas, farmer, Calabash
Eddy, Thomas, farmer
FISHER, William, laborer
Fisher, Michael, laborer
Fairweather, James, farmer
Fanning, James, farmer, Calabash
Fisher, Frederick, laborer
Foster, Robert, grazier, Bendick Morrell
FOSTER, Thomas, grazier, Bendick Morrell
FOSTER, Joseph, grazier, Bendick Morrell
GREEN, George, innkeeper, Bang Bang
Greenwood, Henry, teacher
Grounds, William, The Gap
Graham, William, limeburner
Gilbert, James, laborer
Griffen, William, shepherd, Calabash
Griffen, George, shepherd, Calabash
HADDON, John, farmer
Haddock, Daniel, farmer
Haddock, Joseph, farmer
Hartcomb, George, farmer
Hartcomb, James, farmer
Hartman, John, farmer
Hayden, John, farmer, Calabash
Bendley, George, farmer
Bill, Edward, laborer
Bill, James, laborer
Will, William, laborer
Hall, William, farmer, Wombanumba
Haddon, James, farmer, Marengo ck
JENNINGS, James, farmer, Calabash
KELLY, Thomas, grazier, Calabash
Kelly, William, grazier, Calabash
Kerrins, Michael, farmer, Wombanumba
Kerrins, Patrick, farmer
Kinnimore, John, farmer
LENNANE, John, farmer, Calabash
Lowe, James, laborer
Lynch, Denis, farmer
Landgridge, John, farmer, Calabash
Lockwood, John, teacher, Belovla
MARSDEN, Thomas, farmer

Greville's Post Office Directory of 1872 listed John Hardman - farmer of Bendick Morrell.
Included is his brother-in-law James (James Chadwick) Foster

MARENGO
Greville's Post Office Directory 1872 MARENGO (later Murringo)

SURNAME	CHRISTIAN	OCCUPATION	ADDRESS
FOSTER	James	grazier	Bendick Morrell
HARDMAN	John	farmer	Bendick Morrell

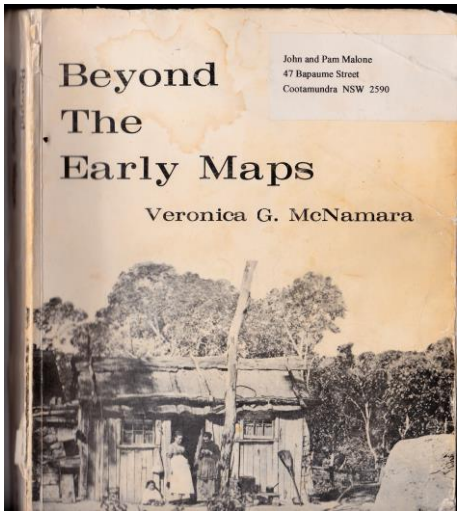
Greville's Post Office Directory 1875 MARENGO

SURNAME	CHRISTIAN	OCCUPATION	ADDRESS
FOSTER	Robert	grazier	Bendick Morrell
FOSTER	Thomas	grazier	Bendick Morrell
FOSTER	Joseph	grazier	Bendick Morrell
HARDMAN	John	farmer	Bendick Morrell

Land Selection

Research is quite incomplete but there are some listings as follows:

Mary Foster (nee Williams) who selected land at Bendick Murrell on 22 January 1867 and who died at Bendick Murrell on 15 June 1874 aged 93 yrs.



Veronica McNamara's Book "Beyond The Early Maps" lists the above information of Mary Foster's Land Selection in the extract as follows:

Early Selectors — Marengo.

Joseph Graham — 9th April, 1874 — Marengo.

J.B. Donkin — 16th April, 1874.

Camello Marina — 18th June, 1874 — later, opened the Commercial Hotel, Murrumburah.

Thomas Anderson — 1874.

Henry Smith — 1874.

James Leary — 1874.

John Brotherson — 1874.

Peter Rheinbierger — 40 acres.

Sebastian Kohn. George Gailey. W. Haugh Jnr., J. Tarlington. P.M. Guinness — 83 acres.

Mary McGrath — 22nd January, 1867 — Burrowa.

Emily Sheedy — 1867 Monteagle County.

Thomas Commens — 1867 Calabash.

Mary Foster — 1867 Bendic Morrel.

Cathrine Hurley — 1867 Fishers Creek.

Michael Kett — 1867 Fishers Creek.

Michael Dwyer — 1867 Fishers Creek.

Laurence Terry — 1867 Boro Creek.

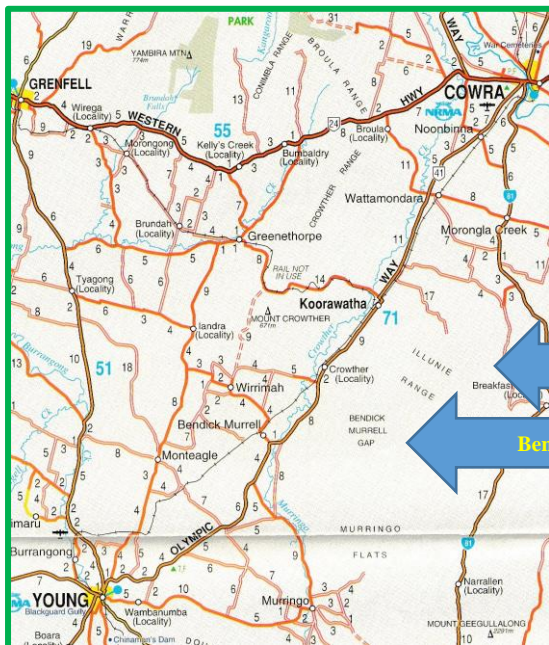
William Levett — 1867 Monteagle County, Stony Creek.

Land Grant of 94 acres — County Monteagle, to Marton Manyon.

In 1880 — W.D. Cambell stood for Parliament against Mr. T.M. Scatterry.

One of the oldest families still remaining in the district is that of the late Mary Foster. Mary selected 22nd January, 1867, at Bendic Morrel. Mary's history is forgotten — as is the name of her husband.

Land Selection — John and Mary Ann Hardman



John and Mary Ann Hardman settled on Crowther Creek between Bendick Murrell and Crowther.

Crowther Creek in central New South Wales starts below Bendick Murrell at an elevation of 358m and ends at an elevation of 278m flowing into the **Lachlan River** near Cowra.

The Crowther Creek drops around 79 metres over its 77 km length.

The Murrungo Creek flows into the Crowther Creek.

The "**Burrangong Argus**" dated Wednesday, 14 June 1876, quoted Mrs Mary Ann Hardman as stating: "**We have 576 acres selected land and some cattle and sheep**".

John Pring

- *John Pring played a significant role in the life and welfare of the Hardman family which will become more evident as the Hardman story unfolds:*

John Pring (full story later in document) had 2 large parcels of land:

The extracts from Veronica McNamara's book "**Beyond the Early Maps**" shows that John Pring purchased huge property acreages as follows:

- | | | |
|-------------------|--------------|--------------|
| ➤ Crowther Creek | 14,080 acres | 30 May 1875 |
| ➤ Bendick Murrell | 12,160 acres | 30 July 1875 |

Bendick Murrell
12,160 acres

Crowther Creek
14,080 acres

John Pring was well and truly entrenched at Crowther well before the official purchase of his land in 1875.

There is evidence that his daughter Rosalie was born at Crowther as far back as 21 September **1860**.

John Pring, a shepherd from West Buckland, Somerset England, arrived in Australia (Port Phillip, Vic) as a Bounty Immigrant per the ship "Argyle on 1 March 1841.

He married Elizabeth Newnham Tooth on 5 May 1848 [registered Gundaroo, Gunning and Yass District].

The Sydney Morning Herald, dated Wednesday 18 October **1848** lists **John Pring** among various land owners mentioned regarding the "Transfers of Runs" so it appears that he was involved in the early purchase / lease of farm land.

- *(Spellings as per newspaper)*

LACHLAN.-Blackman and O'Hara, to James Roberts, Nanima. **John and James Pring, to James Pring, Rathden on Cooney's Creek. [near Jugiong, NSW]** Robert Reid, to William Hood, Broula. Major-General William Stewart, to James Horne Stewart, Dananbilla ; ditto, to ditto, **Bendick Murrell** ; ditto, to ditto, **Crowther Creek**. George Stammers, to Timothy Sullivan, Jollingong.

MURRUMBIDGEE.-John Drew Atkin, to J. D. Atkin and W. H. Broughton, Bundalumla: ditto, to Alfred Bell, Bundare. William Atkinson, to John Regent, Cooleman. Brougham and Woodford, to Henry Burchett, Coree. Broughton and Bingham, to Arthur Bloxham, Yaree, Thomas Bell, to James Garland, Maragle. B. Boyd, to William Sprott Boyd, Nyang ; ditto, to ditto, Deniliquin ; ditto, to ditto, Puon Buon; ditto, to ditto, Bhoirar. Angus Campbell, to David Taylor, Carabost. Messrs. Carne, to Alexander Innes, Coonargo ; ditto, to C. De Witt Jebb, Winduran. J. S. Hindmarsh, to Alexander Innes, Wanganella. Clark Irving, to William Pattison and David Denny, Carranboon. **Robert Owen, to Robert Owen and John Pring, Mangoplar. [Mangoplah south of Wagga Wagga, NSW]** Joseph Warton, to W. M. Conley, Mullingandra. W. C. Wentworth, to John Black, Tala.

After the marriage of John Pring and Elizabeth Tooth, several children followed, all born at **Mangoplah**:

Frances	3 June 1849	Mangoplah
Thomas	3 Dec 1850	Mangoplah
Robert Darlow	29 Jan 1853	Mangoplah
Louisa Ann	19 Oct 1855	Mangoplah

Frederick Pring was born on 18 June 1858, his place of birth listed as 'Lachlan' – The property 'Crowther Creek' is in the **Lachlan Land District** so there is a likelihood that John Pring and his wife and family were at Crowther at least as early as **1858**.

The following article published in the *Goulburn Herald* in March 1862 gives an insight the 'pesky' nature of John Pring which is echoed more fully in a separate article:

Goulburn Herald Wednesday 12 March 1862

SERVED HIM RIGHT.--On Saturday last while the Bathurst coach was passing through the Crowther Run, on its way to the Flat [Lambing Flat later Young], a long line of posts and rails was discerned drawn up, all in the orthodox style, across the road, obstructing the progress of her Majesty's mails. The worthy proprietor of the run was sitting sunning himself, like a possum on a rail, with an attendant flunkey, waiting apparently for the arrival of the coach, and evidently desirous to have ocular demonstration of the perplexity of the worthy Jehu, Mr. Toohey.

[a Jehu was a the biblical military commander of Israel (later king) who was noted for pell-mell style of chariot driving].

Jehu was a man in authority, however, having charge of her Majesty's mails, and, in the execution of his duty, thought lightly of such a paltry obstacle as a three-rail fence, surmounted by a squatter with a flunkey on his flank. Accordingly, having handed the reins to a passenger, Mr. Toohey jumped from his box and requested that the way might be cleared, which, having been refused, he took an axe from the body of the coach and began to clear it himself. The squatter fumed, fretted, and threatened in vain, whilst the posts gradually succumbed to the blows of Jehu, and the rails fell ignominiously to mother earth. Seeing that the fence proved no insurmountable obstacle to the indomitable Toohey, the aristocrat endeavoured to disturb his equilibrium by tampering with the horses, and did his best to frighten them, with only partial success, for in a short time the road was open and the coach got through. Away went the horses till they were brought up by fence number two, when the axe was brought into requisition again, with similar results, before Mr. Pring, the squatter, and his man could run up to witness sport. On the return of the coach on Monday the same process had to be gone through, the fences having in the meantime been erected again. We understand Captain Battye will have a word to say in this matter, and that the question as to whether Mr. Pring had a right to block up the road will be settled shortly in a court of law.--*Burrangong Courier*.

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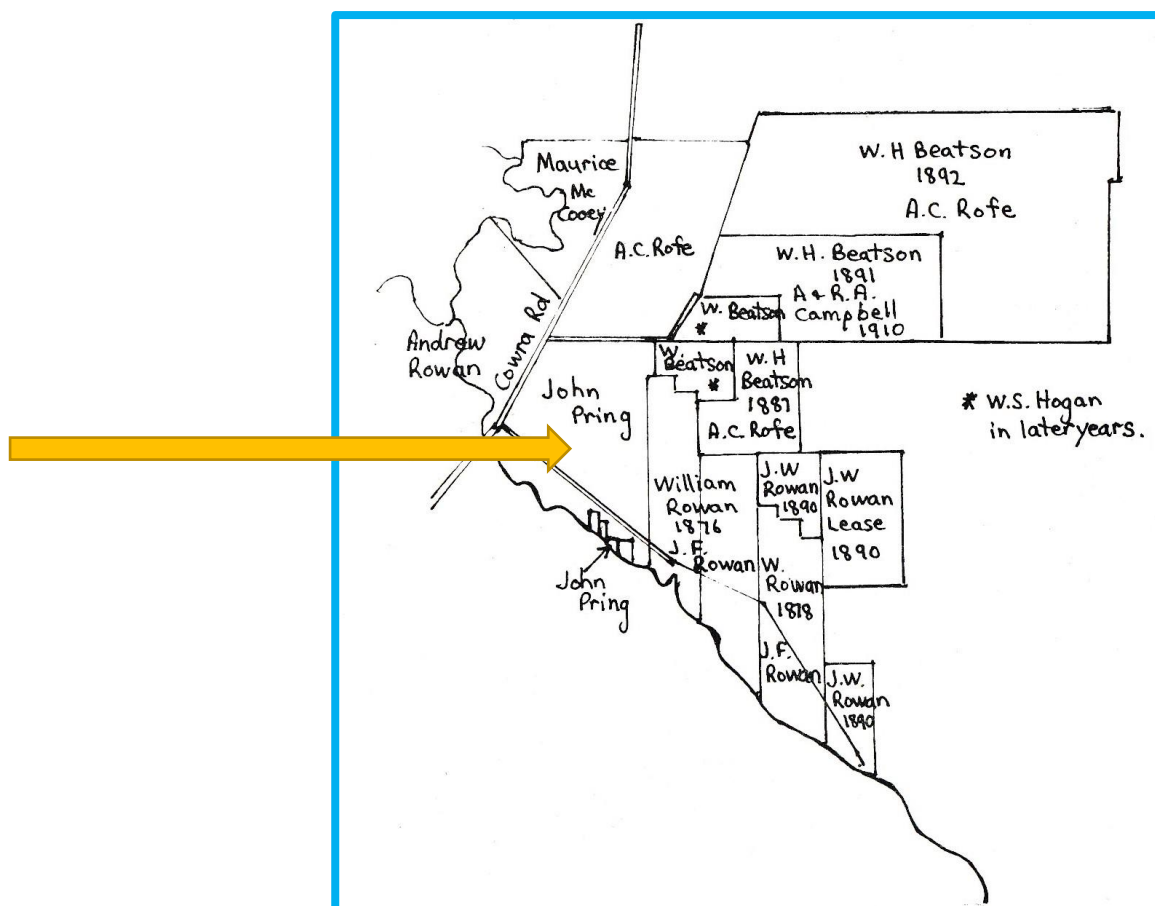
With the introduction of the Robertson Land Act, many Selectors moved into the area as under the reforms unsurveyed land in an area which had been declared an agricultural reserve in designated unsettled areas could be selected and bought [freehold](#) in 40-to-320-acre lots of Crown Land.

Selectors included:

- ✓ John Hardman and his daughters
- ✓ Mary Foster and her sons
- ✓ Andrew Rowan and family
- ✓ Beatson family

The Map below taken from the *“Bendick Murrell 1883-1893 School Centenary”* show a parcel of land believed to have been selected by John Hardman and later acquired by John Pring {following the *Insolvency of John Hardman- story told later*}.

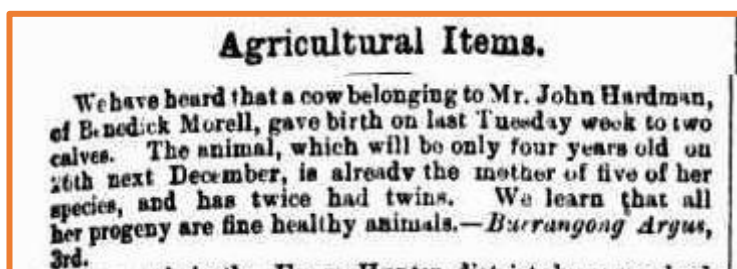
Rowan and Beatson were original neighbours of John and Mary Ann Hardman and family.



A snippet taken from both the:

- *“Sydney Mail and New South Wales Advertiser”* dated Saturday 10 October 1874
- *“Wagga Wagga Express and Murrumbidgee District Advertiser”* dated Wednesday 7 October 1874

shows that John and Mary Ann Hardman are well entrenched on their property at Bendick Murrell and their farm animals are doing extremely well!



Agricultural Items.

We have heard that a cow belonging to Mr. John Hardman, of Bendick Morell, gave birth on last Tuesday week to two calves. The animal, which will be only four years old on 26th next December, is already the mother of five of her species, and has twice had twins. We learn that all her progeny are fine healthy animals.—‘Burrangong Argus’, 3rd.

❖ *The tranquil setting at Bendick Murrell was, for the Hardman family, soon to become a setting for personal and family upheaval!*