

Bendigo Cemetery



The family grave for John Boyd Watson #2991 in section C3.

He was one of the richest men to ever work the mining reefs of Sandhurst.

John Boyd died in 1889 in Sydney aged 64.

John was the son of James Watson, cabinetmaker, and his wife Margaret, nee Boyd.

John Boyd married Mary Ann Covell in 1861 in Sandhurst.

A WATSON grave was first used in Sect D2. This grave has a vault, next to another grave which has a broken headstone.

Records show that 2 bodies were removed to Sect C3.

These interments were #2991, #6169 but other records are incomplete.

It is possible in this first grave, the vault flooded, and the family grave location was moved to section C3.

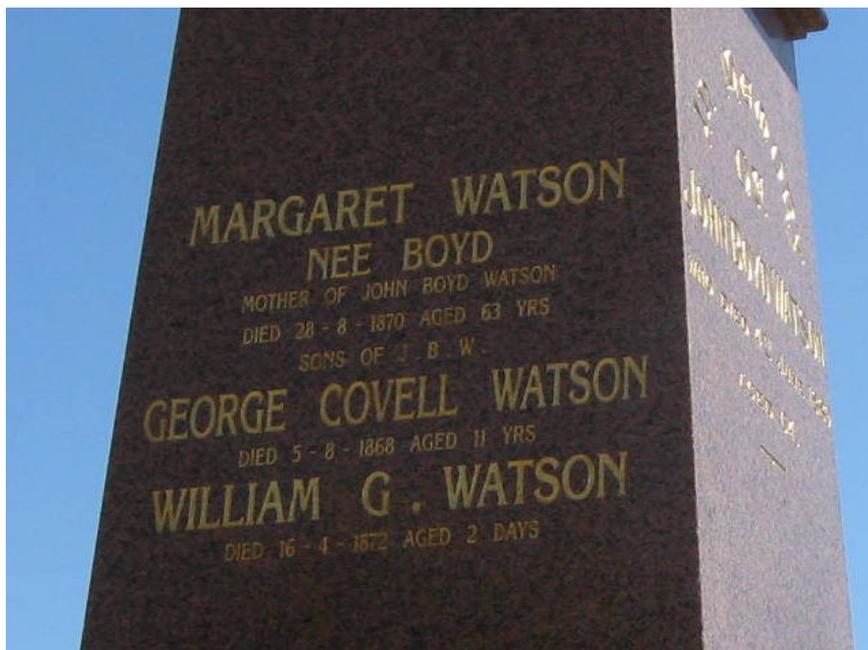
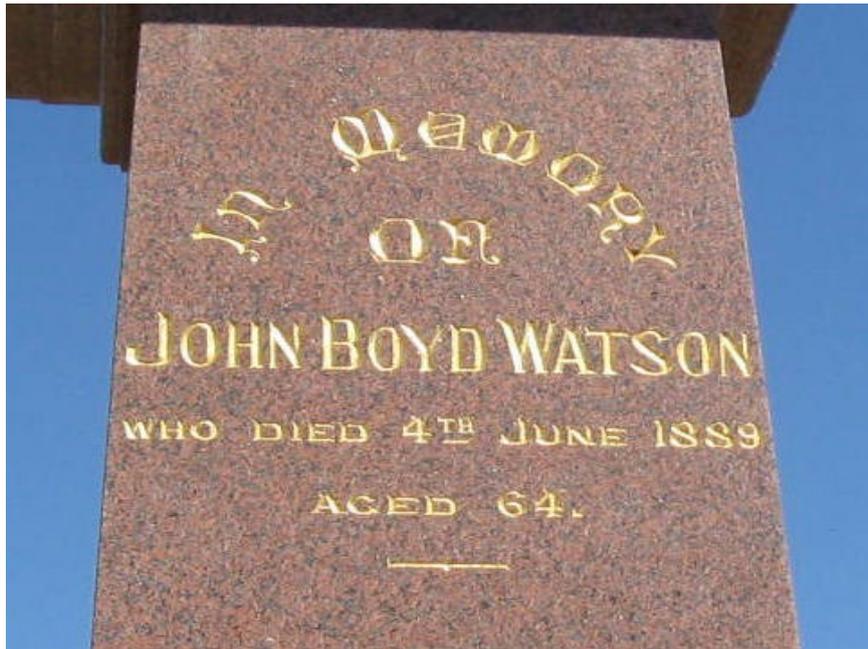
A photo of this grave in D2 is at the end of this report.

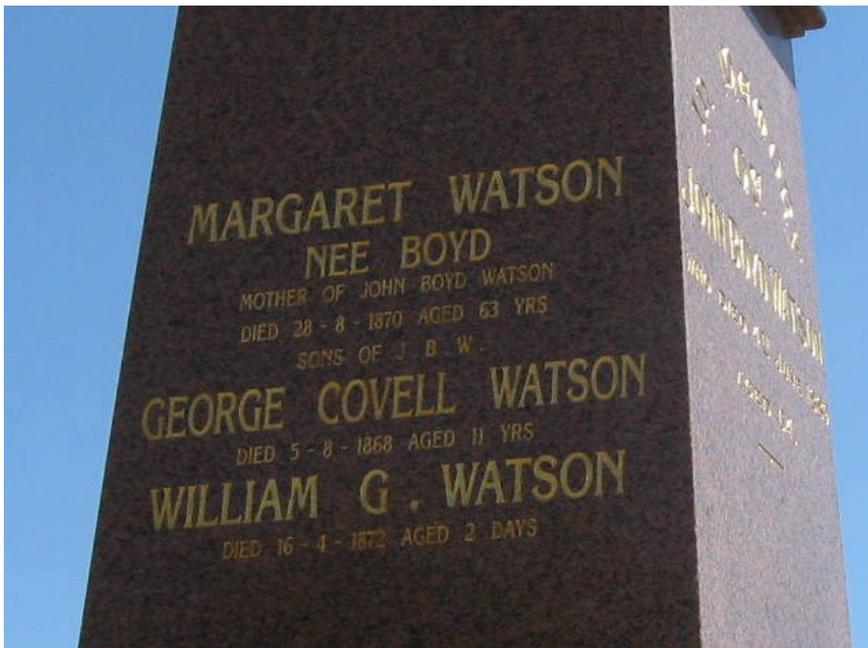
Images:

WATSON_C3_134.JPG

to

WATSON_C3_134F.JPG





The following people were buried in this grave #2991 Sect C3 as per cemetery records.

- 2991 GEORGE COVELL WATSON 6/04/1868
- 3661 MARGARET WATSON 30/08/1870
- 4243 WILLIAM GEORGE WATSON 16/04/1872
- 6169 JEMIMA FLETCHER 24/05/1876
- 6647 MAUD WATSON FLETCHER 19/08/1877
- 8590 SAMUEL ATTWOOD 18/12/1882

9853 ANNIE MADELAINE McEACHERAN 2/04/1886
11112 JOHN BOYD WATSON 8/06/1889
12167 ATHENA ESTELLA KNIGHT WATSON 21/03/1892
13802 SYLVIA CARWEN HALL 3/02/1896

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Biographic notes for John Boyd Watson:

He was one of the richest men to ever work the mining reefs of Sandhurst.

Source: Australian Dictionary of Bibliography Online Edition

WATSON, JOHN BOYD (1828-1889), mining magnate and investor, was born in September 1828 at Paisley, Scotland, son of James Watson, cabinetmaker, and his wife Margaret, nee Boyd. He received little schooling and on 14 March 1841 arrived in Sydney in the *Orestes* with his parents, four brothers and two sisters. They settled at Windsor where Watson became a carrier.

He moved to Sydney but in 1850 left for the Californian diggings. On his return, he set off for the Victorian rushes and in late 1852 reached Bendigo Creek, where he took up a highly profitable claim at the Fifth White Hill. Quick to realize the potential richness of the Bendigo reefs, he was amongst the first to erect a crushing battery.

Watson's initial quartz-mining venture was the Old Chum Claim on New Chum Hill. Next, with a partner he bought a claim in Paddy's Gully from which he derived the sobriquet of 'Paddy' and the nucleus of his fortune. With others he floated the Cornish United Co. and in the late 1860s secured an interest in the adjoining Golden Fleece, Kent and Garden Gully claims, later buying and amalgamating them under one lease as the Kentish Mine which he owned until 1889. It produced huge amounts of gold in 1871-80, one reef alone yielding about thirteen tons of gold valued at some £1,500,000.

Watson had interests in other Sandhurst (Bendigo) mines but generally invested in real estate and commercial ventures. He owned much property in Sandhurst and his extensive Melbourne holdings included the freehold of some of the most valuable inner-city properties. He was a founder, director and principal shareholder of the Federal Bank and a large shareholder in the Melbourne Tramways Co., the Deniliquin and Moama Railway Co. and a Sydney steamship company. He had mining and pastoral interests in Queensland, owned wharves in Sydney and in 1879, with a group of Sandhurst investors, launched the Sydney Daily Telegraph.

On 6 August 1861 at All Saints Anglican Church, Sandhurst, Watson had married Mary Ann Covell, who bore him four sons and five daughters. One daughter married Billy Murdoch, another married Malcolm Donald McEacharn, co-founder of the shipping company, McIlwraith and McEacharn. The pioneer aviator Basil George Watson was a grandson. In the mid-1870s the family moved to Melbourne

but retained close links with Sandhurst. Predeceased by two sons, Watson died of phthisis in Sydney on 4 June 1889 on his return from a visit to San Francisco. He was buried in the Presbyterian section of the Back Creek cemetery, Sandhurst. Under the terms of his will, which was subject to much litigation to resolve legal technicalities, almost all his fortune of between £1 million and £2 million was left to his children and grandchildren. His Victorian assets were valued for probate at £976,549.

Retiring in manner, he was described by his obituarist in the Bendigo Advertiser as 'a close and plodding sort of man'. None, however, could deny his business astuteness. Generous when occasion demanded, he did not parade his affluence and sought no public role in the community. He contributed to the fund enabling Ernest Giles to explore central Australia in 1873-74; Glen Watson in the Musgrave Ranges is named after him. The Watson Sustentation Fund, providing assistance for permanently invalided local miners, was instituted by his son John Boyd on his father's death.

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DEATH OF Mr J B WATSON,
A SANDHURST MILLIONAIRE.

Bendigo Advertiser (Vic. : 1855 - 1918) Wed 5 Jun 1889 Page 3

At twenty minutes past seven o'clock yesterday morning Mr John Boyd Watson, the wealthy mining investor of Sandhurst breathed his last at his brother's residence in Waverly, a suburb of Sydney, NSW.

Mr Watson, who was 65 or 66 years of age, had been ailing for a very considerable time. For the last seven or eight years he never enjoyed what might be called really good health, and was attended to off and on during that time by Dr Macgillivray. Latterly he became much worse, and his medical advisers ordered him to take a trip to San Francisco as the only means of recruiting his rapidly declining health. Accordingly Mr Watson left on a voyage to San Francisco in company with one of his daughters last December.

He returned to Sydney in the early part of last week, having derived no benefit whatever from the change, but on the contrary his health was more impaired than ever, and it became evident that his end was approaching. He took up his residence with his brother, but despite all that medical skill could do, he gradually sank, and died as already stated, the cause of death being a general breaking up of the system.

The news of his demise was telegraphed to his wife and family in Sandhurst early in the forenoon, and Mrs Watson, accompanied by her eldest son (Mr John Watson) and Miss Watson, left by the noon train for Melbourne in order to catch the Sydney express, which will reach its destination between 11 and 12 o'clock

today.

Mr Watson was born in Sydney about the year 1823 or 1824 (*not correct*). In 1840 he went to California, but returned very soon, and, attracted by the early discoveries of gold in this district, he came to Bendigo. He was amongst the earliest diggers on the White Hills, once famous for their wonderful stores of the golden treasure.

For many years he remained in that locality, but he was not very successful. He then turned his attention to the Paddy's Gully Reef, named after its discoverer, an Irishman, named Lomnasey. It is situated to the east of, and lying parallel with the Garden Gully line of reef, just behind Mr Watson's late residence, in Wattle Street. Lomnasey parted with his interest in the claim to Kelly and Clissold in the early days and these purchasers subsequently sold their interest to Mr Watson and Company, amongst whom was Mr John Wade.

Mr Watson's fortunes now took a turn, and it was at this period that he obtained the nucleus of the colossal fortune which he amassed in succeeding years. The new proprietary of the Paddy's Gully claim went actively to work, and for a short time the mine yielded largely, some of the stone returning as much as 17 ozs to the ton. The richest stone was found between the surface and the 55 feet plat.

During the first quartz mining excitement the prospects were so excellent in this locality that an offer of £20,000 in cash was made for 373 yards of the ground held by the Paddy's Gully Company, who refused to sell under £24,000, and the negotiations ceased.

In 1863, Mr Wade relinquished his interest in the mine, and Mr Watson carried on operations for some time without any profitable results. The surface reef ran out at 55 feet below the surface, and the ground being extremely hard, and the influx of water unusually heavy, work was suspended. This was some 10 or 15 years back.

Mr Watson's next venture, and the one that eventually made him one of the wealthiest men in the colony, was on the Garden Gully line of reef where about 20 years ago he became possessed of the Golden Fleece, the Kent, and the Central Garden Gully claims. These mines adjoined each other. They were amalgamated, and they are now represented in the present Kentish mine, which was carried on by Mr Watson up to the time of his death.

Between 1871 and 1880 the Kent mine turned out prodigious quantities of gold. From one reef alone Mr Watson obtained the enormous yield of 13 tons of the precious metal, valued at nearly a million and a half sterling. With such returns as these coming in for a long time, it is not surprising that Mr Watson became one of the richest men in the district.

A brief history of the mine was published in our mining columns yesterday, also an account of the discovery no later than Friday last of a splendid reef at a depth of 1,785 feet: hence it would seem that the mine is inexhaustible in its mineral riches.

There was a good deal of litigation over the prized mine just prior to the first rich discovery of gold. Mr Benjamin Keast and others "jumped" the Golden Fleece claim, which Mr Watson held under miners' right. The case came before the warden in due course, and Mr Watson was defeated.

The Keast party however was ordered to pay £40 compensation to Mr Watson for improvements on the mine. The money could not be subscribed, and the mine again reverted to Mr Watson, who, profiting by his recent experience, renewed work, and very shortly electrified the district by the tremendous output of gold.

In later years Henry Marwood sued Mr Watson before His Honor Judge Skinner to recover one twelfth share in the Golden Fleece claim, valued at £10,000, but Mr Watson gained the case, and continued ever since in sole possession. Mr Watson also invested largely in several of the mines of the district. He held a large number of shares in the Catherine Reef United Company's mine, and also in the Confidence mine.

These were the two principal public companies that he was connected with. He was one of the projectors of the Cornish United Company, whose mine adjoins the Kent claim on the north.

Mr Watson acquired property of immense value in Sandhurst, Melbourne, Sydney, Brisbane and Tasmania, which he retained up to his death. He had numerous properties right in the heart of Melbourne, which were purchased in the time of the "Berry Blight." These have since quadrupled themselves in value. He was also the owner of many valuable properties in Sydney and was largely interested in squatting pursuits in Queensland.

He was a large shareholder in the Steamship Company that runs from Sydney to Watson's Bay and other well known watering places. He was with the late Hon Angus Mackay, one of the promoters of the "Sydney Daily Telegraph," and was a director and one of the biggest shareholders in the Deniliquin Railway Company. Mr Watson took up 30,000 shares in the Melbourne Tramway Company, and afterwards sold out 10,000, which covered the cost of the whole investment. He was connected with the Federal Bank directory.

He was formerly a director in the old Oriental Bank, and, receiving word of the impending failure, he was reported at the time to have withdrawn £60,000 just before the bank stopped payment. Mr Watson's fortune is roughly estimated at over

£2,000,000. The deceased was a close plodding sort of man, and never took any prominent part in public matters.

He leaves a widow and two sons, and five daughters. Of the latter, the three eldest are married. The eldest is the wife of Mr F A Cooper, formerly of Kangaroo Flat, who contested the recent general election for the Shepparton and Euroa electors. The second daughter married Mr M'Eachran, and the third daughter wedded Mr W L Murdoch, the well known cricketer and solicitor of Melbourne.

Mrs Watson has just recovered from a severe illness contracted in Melbourne, and the journey to Sydney will be a severe strain upon her system. In addition to a brother in Sydney, Mr Watson had a sister living in the Rochester district. The coffin containing the remains of the deceased will be brought over to Sandhurst by train, and will be placed in the family vault at the Sandhurst Cemetery. The vault was opened yesterday afternoon, and prepared for the reception of the coffin. The funeral will take place perhaps on Thursday.

On receipt of the intelligence of Mr Watson's death, work was at once stopped at the Kentish mine and the flag hoisted half-mast. The mine will be idle until after the funeral.

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Samuel ATTWOOD

Bendigo Advertiser (Vic. : 1855 - 1918) Tue 19 Dec 1882 Page 3

Other person buried in this large family grave was Samuel ATTWOOD but he is not named on the headstone.

Samuel was a miner and died as a result of a mining accident. The mine belonged to John Boyd Watson.

THE CENTRAL GARDEN GULLY ACCIDENT.

THE MANAGER COMMITTED FOR MAN SLAUGHTER.

The inquest regarding the death of the miner Samuel Attwood, who died in the Bendigo Hospital on Saturday from injuries received through the fall of a bucket in the Central mine, Garden Gully, the property of Mr J B Watson, was continued yesterday at the board-room, Bendigo Hospital. Mr W H Grainger, inspector of mines, attended on behalf of the Mining Department, and Sergeant Webb watched the proceeding on behalf of the police.

John Boyd Watson deposed that the deceased had been in his employ since December, 1880, and worked in the Central mine for about a year. This mine is owned by witness, and John Jewell is the mining manager. To the Inspector of Mines: The mining manager had full control of both the Central mine and the Kentish mine, both mines, in fact, being worked as one. He had power to provide material and apparatus for the safe working of the mine. The mining manager had

never complained nor any other miner in witness's employ of the risk of using the hook.

To the jury: Witness's son attended the mine twice every day, and supplied the manager with what he required, but he had full power to obtain anything himself. The witness here stated that he was in Melbourne when the deceased died, and he telegraphed to his son to provide for the children of the deceased, there being three living. John Jewell deposed that he was the mining manager of the Central Mine Garden Gully, and the deceased was working under witness in that mine. (This witness was duly cautioned by the Coroner.)

The deceased and another miner, named Simon Jinkin, were employed on the 28th November in sinking a winze at the 812 feet level. The deceased was working at the bottom of the winze, and Jinkin was at the windlass. The depth of the winze is 28 feet. About eleven o'clock witness was informed that an accident had occurred to the deceased, and that he had been removed to the surface. He was then quite sensible, and was removed to the hospital at once.

To the Inspector of Mines: Witness had the entire supervision of the works of the mine above and below. He had full power to get material or appliances for the working of the mine. Witness assisted in putting the windlass and rope on when the winze got to a depth when it was required. He produced the hook, which was the one used by the deceased and his mate in sinking the winze. The bucket was a five gallon oil drum. Witness supplied the hook when the windlass and rope were "rigged" over the winze. He visited the men when they were at work at least two or three times per day and saw the hook in use. The hook was in use about six weeks.

To the Coroner: Had been in the habit of using a similar hook to the one produced. He considered it was perfectly safe for the kind of work. To a juryman: The men never complained that she hook was unsafe.

Re-examined by Mr Grainger: The hook produced was more suitable for the work than the "tumbler" hook, also produced. It was not more suitable, simply because it took more time to attach to the bucket than did the "tumbler" hook. The reason he considered that the hook was more suitable was because the men preferred it for lifting the rock-borer about at the bottom of the winze. It took less time to attach and detach the hook to the rock-borer than the "tumbler" hook.

In his opinion the common hook was as safe a hook as the "tumbler" hook in a perpendicular winze only 20 feet deep. When the mining inspector visited the mine, and when witness's attention was directed to the hook, he did not say, "I should not use this ok were I working with a double bucket, but I will never use this hook again."

To the Coroner : He had since worked with a "tumbler" hook, which had unhitched twice since being placed on.

To the Mining Inspector: The room between the bucket and the winze was from 6 to 9 inches. The winze was 7 feet by 4 feet, and 28 feet deep. The bucket was not suspended in the middle of the winze. Did not take up a pick and endeavour to cover up some blood in the bottom of the winze, before the mining inspector made his visit. He meant that the bucket was working from six to nine inches from the bulge of ground in the side of the winze, about twelve feet from the bottom, which he intended to shoot away the day after the accident.

When that bulge was shot away the bucket would hang in the centre of the winze. (The witness here stated that he did not go to the bottom of the winze until the mining inspector came.)

A juryman here remarked that if the "tumbler" hook was properly placed on, it was impossible that it could slip.

Simon Jinkin deposed, that he was working with the deceased in the Central mine when the accident occurred. Witness was at the windlass at the time, and the deceased was at the bottom filling the bucket. In lowering the bucket it struck on the bulge and fell on deceased's head. Witness sang out, but deceased did not appear to move. Witness went down the winze and had the deceased removed to the hospital.

To the Mining Inspector: The bucket was quite steady before he lowered it. The ledge of ground has not yet been shot away, and the sinking of the winze has been continued since then.

The winze is now between 30 and 40 feet in depth. Witness remembered hauling and lowering the bucket at the suggestion of the mining inspector, and also remembered hearing the mining inspector say, "Why, there is very little room." He considered that the "tumbler hook " was the safest, although he had worked with the common hook without accident for some time. Witness had worked underground about ten years.

In every other winze he had sunk, "tumbler" hooks had been used, but these winzes were on the underlay. Since the accident the "tumbler" hook had been used, and on Saturday last he saw it come on, when the bucket struck the bottom. He could not say whether the accident would have been prevented if a "tumbler" hook had been used. He considered that if the ledge of ground had been taken away there would have been less probability of the accident occurring.

They never complained to the manager of the ledge of ground being in the winze.

He informed the manager that the hook was strained. It was strained in lifting the rock-borer the day before the accident. He had seen the bucket strike the ledge of ground twice previous to the accident. Witness was then in the bottom of the ground.

To the Coroner: He considered that the hook was a safe one for "downright" winzes. Deceased and witness were the only miners employed in sinking the winze.

To Sergeant Webb: He did not think the hook a safe one since the accident occurred. The "tumbler" hook, he believed, was constructed specially to prevent such accidents as the falling away of a bucket. To a juryman : He did not receive instructions from the mining manager to shoot the ledge away. To the mining inspector : He had worked in the winze for about a fortnight since the accident.

Dr Friedman, assistant surgeon at the hospital, was called and repeated his evidence as already reported, which showed that the deceased died through having received a compound depressed fracture of the skull.

W H Grainger, inspector of mines, deposed that he attended at the mine on the day following the accident. He made an inspection of the mine with the mining manager, and young Mr Watson. The manager first descended to the bottom of the winze. He saw the iron bucket, and also the hook, which he found to be a common or ordinary one. He objected to the hook as being an unsafe one, and the manager replied that lie would not think of using it if there were double buckets at work, and he said that he would take care and not use the same hook again. Witness uncovered some quartz at the bottom of the winze and found a quantity of blood. He knew the blood to be there because he saw the manager covering it over when witness was proceeding to descend the winze.

Witness saw the ledge of ground referred to by previous witnesses, which is situated about twelve feet from the bottom. The ledge projected about six inches. He had the bucket raised and lowered to see how clear it would go from the sides of the winze. He found that it would only clear the ledge a couple of inches. On a second experiment the bucket cleared the ledge by about four inches, Witness then proceeded to the hospital, and saw the deceased. Dr Freidman asked the deceased several questions at witness's prompting. The deceased stated that he considered that the hook was safe enough. The deceased appeared quite sensible.

The deceased also stated in answer to a question as to whether a safety hook would have been better, replied "Oh, I suppose that if we had asked for one we could have got it, as I believe there are some in the mine." The deceased manifested reluctance to give further information. To the Coroner: Witness considered that there has been a contravention of the Mining Regulation Act 1877, by a breach of the 11th

section, negligence being exhibited. There was no provision compelling miners to use safety-hooks in a case like the present one, but by rule 16, section 6, cages are compelled to be fitted with suitable appliances.

The mining-inspector, re-called by John Jewell, stated that he visited the mine on the 20th October last, and saw the winze, but there was no rope or windlass erected over it.

Simon Jinkin, re-called, stated that the hook and rope and the windlass were at the winze when the inspector of mines visited the mine on the 20th October.

To a juryman: They take the windlass off when we fire a shot John Jewell re-called, also denied the statement that the hook and windlass were not there at the time of his visit. The windlass was over the winze with the rope at the time. He had four Witnesses. Their names are: - Simon Jinkin, J H Madden, J B Watson junr, and Jonathan B Deaken.

The Coroner then reviewed the evidence, and after doing so stated that the question depended to a great extent on the hook, there being no doubt as to the cause of death. The jury had to consider whether criminal negligence had been shown, the reading of the law being that if any person contribute towards the death of another that person is guilty of manslaughter. The jury should not allow any feeling in the matter to influence their verdict, but deal entirely with the evidence which had been placed before them. It was no doubt admitted that the "tumbler" hook is the more safe of the two, but they should consider that, the winze was only 28 feet deep, and they should also consider that the said hook had been used in the sinking of other winzes without accident.

In reference to the ledge, the manager had explained that it was necessary to leave the ledge until the winze has attained such a depth that it could be shot away by placing a bore in it with the rockborer from below. If they thought that it was a negligent piece of mining, they could then return a verdict, as the Act directed, but, they should consider that while the coronial prosecution might not be withheld, the relatives could seek redress on the civil side of the court because it might become, a case of contributory negligence on the part of the deceased and his mate Jinkin, who did not complain to the manager of the hook.

After a deliberation of half-an-hour, the jury returned the following verdict:-

"That on the sixteenth day of December, 1882, at the Bendigo Hospital, the deceased, Samuel Attwood, died from fracture of the skull resulting from a fall of a bucket in a winze at the Central Garden Gully mine, owned by Mr J B Watson, on the 28th November last, and that the death arose from the negligence of the mining manager, John Jewell, allowing the men to use a common hook instead of the

"tumbler," or safety hook, and more especially leaving the ledge of ground against which the bucket struck. The jury find John Jewell guilty of the manslaughter of Samuel Attwood."

The Coroner then formally charged the accused and committed him for trial at the next Court of Assize to be held at Sandhurst on the 20th of February. Bail was allowed in two sureties of £50 and the accused's own recognisance of £100. The verdict we understand was unanimously arrived at.

This photo shows the old grave in section D2.





Compiled by Pat & Ian Belmont
in June 2019
for the Bendigo Cemetery Obituaries & Notes