



# Bendigo Remembrance Park - Notable Graves Tour

## 1. ROBERT CLARK



Born: 8 Nov 1841 Northumberland, England

Died: 24 Apr 1883 Sandhurst, Victoria, Australia

Buried: 25 April 1883

Arrived in Australia in 1854

Trade union leader and politician.

Campaigner for the Eight Hour Day for Miners in Victoria. Mayor of Sandhurst 1875-1876. Member for Sandhurst in Victoria's Legislative Assembly 1877-1883. Miner & Miner's Advocate. Trade Union Official and Journalist (Bendigo Evening News).

*Image - State Library Victoria*  
Image RWP/18221

Australian Dictionary of Biography

<http://adb.anu.edu.au/biography/clark-robert-3217>

*Bendigo Advertiser* (Trove link) Wednesday 25 April 1883 page 3. **Obituary**

<http://trove.nla.gov.au/news/paper/article/88515138/9066274>

Located in Section D5

Grave number 7101

Interment number 8728

Bendigo Advertiser Tuesday 24 April 1883 p 2 Article

DEATH OF THE HON. ROBERT CLARK.

The melancholy intelligence of the death of the Hon. Robert Clark will be received with deep and wide-spread feelings of sorrow and regret. After a painful illness, extending over four weeks, this lamented gentleman expired at half-past twelve o'clock this morning, at his residence in Waterloo Place. The loss to the community will be deeply felt, and it will be difficult to find a man sufficiently capable in all respects to replace him. Mr Clark was possessed, not only of great natural ability, but of an amount of energy and industry, brave perseverance, and practical experience, which rendered him a most valuable member of any deliberative body, whether legislative or municipal. Everyone who enjoyed his private friendship will lament his too early departure for "the undiscovered country." To his family his death comes as a blow hard indeed to bear, for a kinder husband or father is not to be found among the most amiable and warm-hearted of men, and after a lifetime of immunity from sickness or physical suffering of any kind, the fact of his being struck down in the prime of life must be felt by his relatives from its suddenness and unexpectedness as a most sad affliction. There is not a soul in the community who will not sympathise deeply with Mrs. Clark and all the members of the family of the lamented deceased. Many owe him a deep debt of gratitude, and it will be admitted by all who knew him that he was generous to a fault. Whenever it was in his power to do, we will not say a political supporter, but any friend, or any person requiring and



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deserving assistance, a good turn, he would take any amount of trouble to render the service asked of him. As a man of a most kindly and genial disposition, of warm, benevolent, and charitable tendencies, Robert Clark was one above all praise. He had his faults, as who has not? But his many excellent and amiable qualities, when thrown into the balance against them, outweighed them all; and after his terrible and prolonged sufferings in his only and fatal illness, the consolation comes to his relatives and friends of the high and confident hope that the released spirit, now freed from all earthly blemish, is at peace. Yet he will be deeply deplored, for we have lost in him a man of extraordinary talent, of superior merit, and, above all, of a kind and good heart.

Mr Robert Clark was born at the town of Walker, in Northumberland, on the 8th of November, 1841, so that he was only 41 years five months old at the time of his death. His father, who was engaged in coal mining at Newcastle, died while his sons, Robert and William, were yet young. His mother married again subsequently. The family came to Australia in December, 1854, and went to Ballarat in 1855, where their stepfather was engaged as a miner, and the two sons in fossicking. Mr Clark was never at school in his life, except a fortnight in a night school in Ballarat. He devoted all his spare time to improving himself, however, and was naturally apt. He came to Sandhurst with his brother in 1860. In 1861 he went to New Zealand with his brother. On his return, in a few months time, he married Miss Kirnighan, his present wife. He left for New Zealand a second time with his brother in 1865, and again returned after a few months. When he first came to Sandhurst he worked as a stamper-feeder at the Hercules mine, when the late Mr D. Macdougall was mining manager. He was subsequently engaged at Huntly, and later on at the Comet mine. For several years previous to 1870 he worked at the Hustler's mine under Mr Robert Carr, and he left this claim because, after a six months trial of the eight hours system, which he had been advocating, they reverted to the old system of nine hours.

Mr Clark leaves a wife and nine children, the eldest of whom, Miss Clark, is about 20 years of age.

The family grave for Robert Clark



Image from RPCV records