



## Bendigo Remembrance Park - Notable Graves Tour

### 2. GEORGE AVERY FLETCHER

Born: c1827 England

Died: 11 Apr 1876 Sandhurst, Victoria, Australia

Date of Burial: 13/04/1876

Arrived in Melbourne in 1853

Sandhurst Town Clerk, Architect & City Surveyor.

First to hold the dual position of Town Clerk & City Surveyor of Sandhurst 1856-1871. Town Clerk 1856-1876. Designed the original Sandhurst Town Hall and introduced the planting of tree lined streets. Architect of first Cemetery Sextons cottage and Chapel at Back Creek Cemetery (Bendigo). Builder and Engineer.

*Bendigo Advertiser* (Trove link) Wednesday 12 April 1876 page 3. **Obituary**

<http://trove.nla.gov.au/news/paper/article/88255497/9128921>

Located in Section D4

Grave number 1261

Interment number 6116

The Argus (Melbourne) Wednesday 10 May 1876 p 4 Article

THE LATE MR G. A. FLETCHER. TOWN CLERK OF SANDHURST.

Our obituary of this day contains the notice of the death of Mr G. A. Fletcher, after a lingering illness of many months duration. Mr Fletcher was so long and intimately connected with the history of Sandhurst that his death breaks a link between the present and the past. Mr Fletcher's connection with Sandhurst commenced on its first establishment as a municipality under Captain Clarke's Act, in 1855. He made the first valuation, having previously undertaken the same duty in connection with Emerald Hill, and we believe other suburban municipalities. Mr Fletcher very shortly afterwards succeeded Mr Hopkins as town clerk, and also for many years performed the duties of surveyor, for which he was well qualified by a long engineering experience under one of the great firms in the mother country. It would perhaps have been better for his peace had the duties of the latter office not been attached to his position, for at the time of the formation of the Municipality when roads and footpaths had to be constructed out of a chaos of diggers' holes, when labor was high and rates were an unaccustomed burden, when a great deal was expected to be done with the smallest of means, the office was an unpopular one. Whether whatever was done under his superintendence was well done it may be safe that no public body ever had a more faithful officer faithful to the loss of popularity, which a man of a more convenient temperament might have acquired. He was rigorous to the letter in exacting full value for the ratepayers' money, and so no doubt he made many enemies.



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Almost the remembrance of these early days has passed away, during which it may be that Mr Fletcher was the scapegoat for the short-comings of successive Councils. But in Mr Fletcher's latter days he had the satisfaction of knowing that he had out-lived the criticism to which he, as the assailable representative of the Council, was so long subjected. He had the satisfaction of knowing that he enjoyed the full confidence and esteem of every member of the Council, most of whom had taken office with prejudices against him, but who, when brought into contact with him, soon recognised his abilities, and became his firmest friends. He will be much missed in the Council Chamber, for he was an able adviser and his intimate knowledge of municipal law and of the numerous incidents in the history of the city, were of the greatest value. Mr Fletcher was a thorough man of business with a large fund of general and professional information. He was well read upon most subjects. As an engineer it is to be regretted that he had not a larger field for his abilities, of which he received more than one ample recognition from the professional branches of the Government departments. He was engineer of the great sludge channel, now obliterated and almost forgotten, and also, of the Spring Gully reservoir, the execution of which, alone of the hydraulic works in the colony, met with Colonel Sankey's unqualified approbation. For one great local improvement the citizens are indebted to Mr Fletcher; it was he who, so long ago as ten or twelve years, introduced and persisted in the planting of the streets with trees. The City Council of late have wisely, and with a liberal hand, followed out Mr Fletcher's ideas, the realization of which has already so much improved the appearance of the streets, and added to the comfort of the residents, and in a few more years will make Sandhurst the prettiest inland town in the colony. To Mr Fletcher was due in a great measure the establishment of the cattle market, which has been such a signal success. The cemeteries, the park, and Botanical Gardens, were also under his care, and were, in the first instance, laid out by him. By a large circle of friends Mr Fletcher will be long and sincerely mourned. A strict disciplinarian, he was essentially a kind-hearted man; there is no officer of the Council, from the highest to the humblest, by whom he was not regarded with esteem and affection. It is painful to think that his latter years were clouded with sorrows, which abridged a life so justly dear to his family and friends.

The family grave for George Avery Fletcher



Image from RPCV records