



Bendigo Remembrance Park - Notable Graves Tour

25. ROBERT BURROWES

c1825 Perth, Ottawa, Canada

Date of Death: 16 Sept 1893 Bendigo, Victoria, Australia

Date of Burial: 18 Sept 1893

Arrived in Melbourne in 1853

Miner and Goldmine Owner of the Garden Gully reef. Local Government Councillor 1860. Original member of Bendigo's First Fire Brigade. Chairman of Sandhurst Municipal Council 1862-1863. Parliamentary career over 27 years including member for Sandhurst in Victoria's Legislative Assembly 1866-1877 & 1880-1893. Lieutenant with Bendigo Volunteer Cavalry Corps, Wholesale Grocer, Wine and Spirit Merchant.

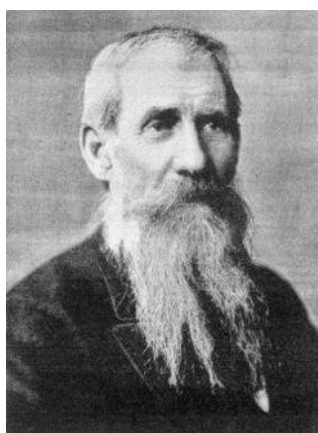


Image from: Australian Dictionary of Biography
<http://adb.anu.edu.au/biography/burrowes-robert-3120>

Bendigo Independent (Trove link) Monday 18 September 1893 page 3. **Obituary**
The death of the Hon Robert Burrowes, M.L.A.
<http://trove.nla.gov.au/news/paper/article/174516702/19210804>

Located in Section F3

Grave number 12763

Interment number 12763

The foundation stone for the Burke & Wills monument located at the top of the rise in the Bendigo Remembrance Park was laid on August 20, 1862. Mr Robert Burrowes, Chairman of the Borough of Sandhurst declared a public holiday and the laying of the stone which weighed 1 ton was well attended.

Bendigo Advertiser (Vic. : 1855 - 1918) Saturday 16 September 1893 p 5 Article

DEATH OF THE HON. ROBERT BURROWES, M.L.A.

The news of the death of the hon. Robert Burrowes, who has had a long and honorable career as representative of this district in the Legislative Assembly, will occasion wide-spread regret. The sad event occurred at a quarter past 1 o'clock this morning. The hon. gentleman had been ill for about three weeks, suffering, it is thought, from a return of the complaint which very nearly proved fatal to him in 1888. Owing to the absence of Dr Atkinson, his regular medical attendant, Drs Hinchcliff and Macgillivray were summoned last evening at half-past 8 o'clock, and held a consultation. Later on they were joined by Dr Atkinson. Mr Burrowes, who had only taken to bed at 7 o'clock, was in the



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meantime suffering great pain, and morphia was injected in order to give him ease. Between 11 and 12 o'clock last night he became unconscious, and died as stated at a quarter past 1 o'clock this morning, in his 67th year. Another link has thus been broken in the chain of old Bendigonians who have made their mark and borne an honored name in the community in which they lived. The deceased gentleman had many friends and few, if any, enemies. He was a self-made man, and fortune favored him in bestowing a large share of the wealth of the Garden Gully reef upon him. It fell into good hands, for it gave him leisure, and he devoted his time to promote the welfare of his adopted country and the district which he had made his home. Though no orator he could express himself in homely language, and as his ideas were generally characterised by a large amount of solid sense; and that his views were acceptable to the public is proved by the length of time he has enjoyed the confidence of the electors. This, combined with his honesty, straight-forwardness and integrity, commended him to the citizens as a man they could trust. In politics he was a true Liberal and accessible to his constituents, and in private life he was liberal to a degree without ostentation. He was a loving husband and father and a true friend, quiet and staid in outward life, yet genial, hearty and kindly amongst his friends and acquaintances Mr Burrowes leaves a widow and a large family to mourn their loss. His eldest son, Mr Robert Burrowes, is engaged in station pursuits, and his second son, Mr S. Burrowes, is in the Union Bank in Melbourne. Miss Burrowes has for some years devoted herself to the duties of a hospital nurse, and is at present engaged at Mr Fitzgerald's hospital in Melbourne.

Robert Burrowes was born at Perth, a township near Ottawa, Canada, in 1827. He received his early training in private schools, and when old enough to start in the world engaged in the North American lumber trade and other commercial pursuits. He left Canada in 1852, and arrived in Melbourne in April, 1853. He did not remain long there, but proceeded to Bendigo, and entered extensively into mining and commercial pursuits. Amongst his first commercial ventures was the purchase of property and the establishing of a boot and shoe mart in Pall Mall, near where the Temple Court now stands. This business he carried on successfully for several years, and while attending to it he was not neglectful of his duties as a member of the community. Though not prominently before the public at this time—he is not mentioned in the public records of the exciting red ribbon agitation—yet his sympathies were on the side of the oppressed people. He interested himself in matters of social progress probably more than political, and among the institutions he was foremost in starting was the first fire brigade, in 1855, now known as the No. 1 Volunteer Fire Brigade, and with which he has ever since been associated. Another institution which proved a great benefit to the district, and which he also took a leading part in promoting, was the Bendigo Land and Building Society, begun on 2nd August, 1858. This was a most successful society, and merged into the existing Bendigo Mutual Permanent Land and Building Society in 1865, which was incorporated in 1876. Up to the time of the incorporation, Mr Burrowes, Mr J. McIntyre and Mr John Holmes were trustees of the society. Then their office ceased, but Mr Burrowes has been connected with the society until the day of his decease, as an investor and director. About 1859 he sold his Pall Mall property, and purchased property in High-street from a well-known puddler named Stephens. It was thought by his friends that he had done an unwise thing, as the Mall property was likely to be a permanent and improving investment, while the other was a very doubtful speculation so far as business was concerned. At all events, that the land in this locality was not thought much of was shown by the fact that when offered at the first land sale, there were no bidders. It is an old saying



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that it is better to be born lucky than rich, and in this instance the truth of the saying was made manifest, as it was eventually found that the Garden Gully reef ran through the ground. Mr Burrowes let the underground on tribute at 25 per cent., and reaped a golden harvest. Besides the business premises Mr Burrowes built his residence on the ground. After the sale of the Mall property he took a trip to Britain, partly on pleasure and partly on business, and after a short stay returned to the colony. He again settled down on Bendigo and commenced business in High-street under the style of Burrowes and Vickery, wholesale grocers and wine and spirit merchants. This business was carried on for several years. Mr Burrowes still interested himself in local matters, and his business aptitude and general good sense commended him to the ratepayers, so that in 1860 he was elected a member of the municipal council, which position he at all times filled with credit to himself and benefit to the town. On 14th January, 1862, he was elected chairman of the council, and while in this honorable position the burden of representing the townspeople on the great occasion of the opening of the railway from Melbourne to Bendigo fell chiefly upon his shoulders. The success of that grand demonstration is historical.

On all questions affecting the miners Mr Burrowes held the popular views. He was a staunch supporter of the eight hours' system, and when the attempt was made in 1879 to reduce the miners' wages, he was one among the ranks of mining directors who would not countenance such a proposal. At the meeting of miners hold on the 23rd August, 1879, at St James' Hall, Mr Burrowes was the mover of the second resolution, and he took occasion to point out that, although he was a director in several mining companies, he had strenuously objected to the proposed reduction of miners' wages. Another mass meeting of miners was held in the Corn Exchange on the 20th September, 1879), and Mr Burrowes was again present, and moved one of the resolutions adopted by the meeting.

Mr Burrowes' Parliamentary record extended over a period of 27 years.

The family grave of Robert Burrows



Image from RPCV records