

Bendigo Cemetery



Buried in the Bendigo Cemetery - Who was he?

Notes for Johann Gottfried Tobias Christopher BALLERSTEDT
aka Christopher BALLERSTEDT (1796-1868)

An early deep reef golder miner on the goldfields of Sandhurst and called
Australia's 1st Mining Magnate.

His son Theodore Ballerstedt sold the family holdings in 1870, including the villa
style family home

(later called [Fortuna Villa](#)) and the Victoria Hill claim to George Lansell.

Poor Theodore Ballerstedt was to die 2 years later, after returning to Germany.

Images:

BALLERSTEDT_E4_013.JPG

to

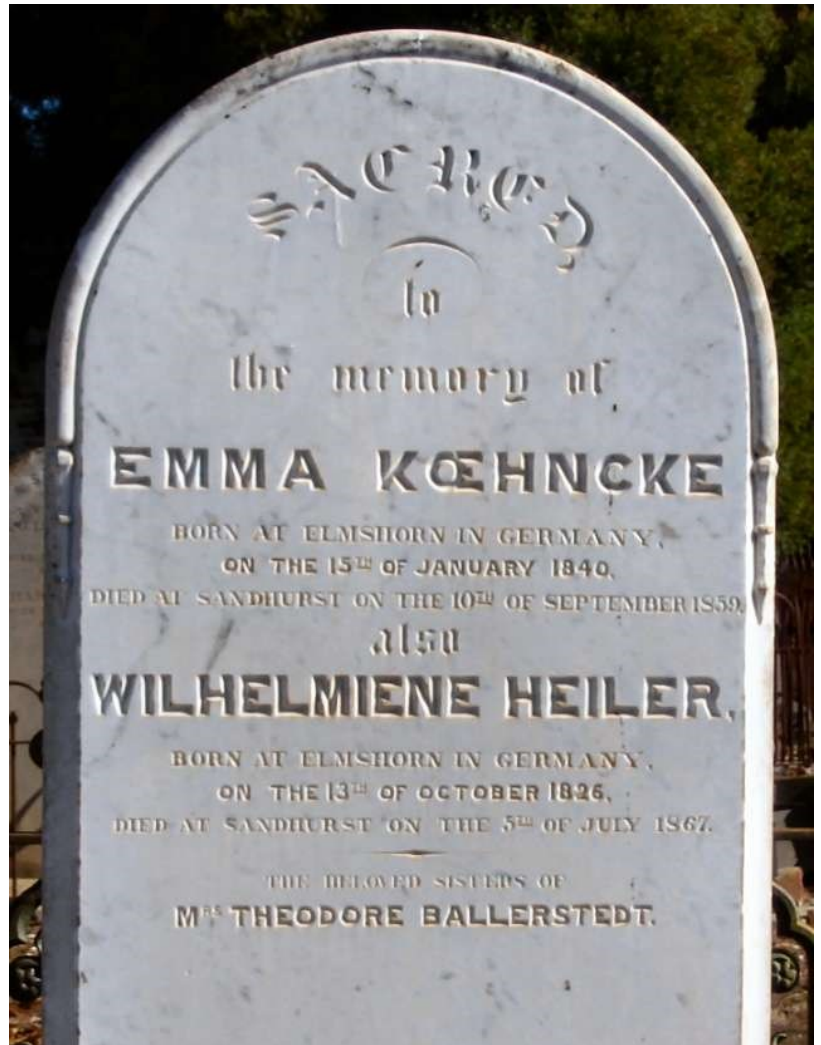
BALLERSTEDT_E4_013D.JPG

Sacred to the Memory of
EMMA KOEHNCKE
Born at Elmshorn in Germany
on the 15th of January 1840
Died at Sandhurst on the 10th
September 1859

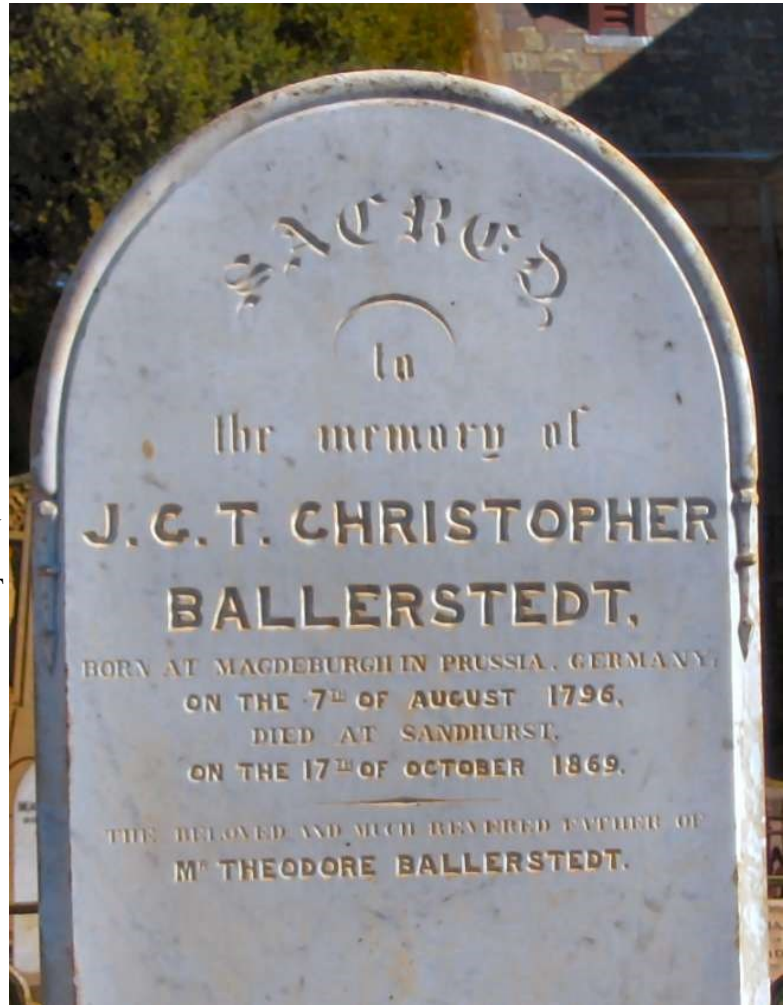
also

Wilhelmiene HEILER
Born at Elmshorn in Germany
on the 13th of October 1826
Died at Sandhurst on the 5th of
July 1867

The beloved sisters of
Mrs Theodore BALLERSTEDT



Sacred to the Memory of
J.G.T. CHRISTOPHER
BALLERSTEDT
Born at Mageburgh in Pussia,
Germany
on the 7th of August 1796
Died at Sandhurst
on the 17th of October 1869
The beloved and much revered
Father of
Mr Theodore BALLERSTEDT



The following people were buried in this grave #293 Sect E4 as per cemetery records.

Johann Gottfried Tobias Christopher BALLERSTEDT's grave at the Bendigo Cemetery has two headstones. And cemetery records only list 3 burials in this double grave.

293 Emma KOEHNCKE who died 10/09/1859 and was buried 11/09/1859 aged 19

2778 Louisa Wilhelmiene HEILER who died 5/07/1867 and was buried 7/07/1867 aged 41

3374 Johann Gottfried Tobias Christopher BALLERSTEDT who died 17/10/1869 and was buried 19/10/1869 aged 73.

It would seem that Emma and Louisa were sisters to the wife of Theodore BALLERSTEDT, son of Christopher Ballerstedt.

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Christopher BALLERSTEDT

Bendigo Advertiser (Vic. : 1855 - 1918) Mon 18 Oct 1869 Page 2

FUNERALS.

DEATHS.

On the 17th instant, at his residence, New Chum Gully, Sandhurst, Christopher Ballerstedt, Esq, in his seventy fourth year, the much beloved and revered father of Theodore Ballerstedt, Esq JP.

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ANOTHER GONE.

Death is busy amongst the old residents of this district and two of them had no sooner been laid in their graves, than a third speedily followed. On Saturday it was rumoured that Mr Christopher Ballerstedt was near his last, and it turned out to be too true, for yesterday morning he died at the advanced age of seventy four. He was one of the earliest successful reefers on Bendigo, and Ballerstedt's claim on the Victoria Reef, is one well known far and wide, and his saying in reference to it that he would get a ton of gold out of it, may be remembered by many.

Mr Ballerstedt, it may be mentioned, was engaged in the great battle of Waterloo, being at the time a soldier in Blucher's army. As well as being one of the early pioneers of mining on Bendigo, Mr Ballerstedt, together with his son, Mr Theodore Ballerstedt, was amongst the first of the gold miners who went to California, from which country they came to Victoria. Mr Ballerstedt, although upwards of seventy years of age, was active and energetic, and in the enjoyment of excellent health until he was struck down by the attack which proved fatal.

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Bendigo Advertiser (Vic. : 1855 - 1918) Wed 20 Oct 1869 Page 2

THE LATE MR C BALLERSTEDT

The funeral cortege which followed the remains of the late Mr C Ballerstedt to the Back Creek Cemetery was - although the expressed wish of the relatives of the deceased was that the funeral should be private - composed of a large number of his friends. Between twenty and thirty conveyances followed the remains, and among the occupants might have been noticed several of the most influential members of the community.

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Bendigo Advertiser (Vic. : 1855 - 1918) Mon 8 Nov 1869 Page 1

We have also to add the name of Mr C Ballerstedt, of the Victoria Reef. He was one of the earliest successful reefers on Bendigo, and Ballerstedt's claim on the Victoria Reef, is one well known far and wide, and his saying in reference to it that he would get a ton of gold out of it, may be remembered by many. Mr Ballerstedt, it may be mentioned, was engaged in the great battle of Waterloo, being at the time a soldier in Blucher's army. As well as being one of the early pioneers of mining on Bendigo, Mr Ballerstedt, together with his son, Mr Theodore Ballerstedt, was

amongst the first of the gold miners who went to California, from which country they came to Victoria.

Mr Ballerstedt, although upwards of seventy years of age, was active and energetic, and in the enjoyment of excellent health until he was struck down by an attack of paralysis which proved fatal. The funeral cortege which followed the remains of the deceased to the Back Creek Cemetery was, although the expressed wish of the relatives of the deceased was that the funeral should be private, composed of a large number of his friends. Between twenty and thirty conveyances followed the remains, and among the occupants might have been noticed several of the most influential members of the community.

Christopher Ballerstedt Bendigo Victoria

As a teenager Johann Gottfried Tobias Christopher Ballerstedt was drafted into the Prussian army commanded by the Field Marshal Gebhard Leberecht von Blucher. He fought at the Battle of Waterloo in 1815 when Napoleon was finally defeated. With his son Theodore he travelled to the Californian Goldfields in the late 1840s, but had little luck there. Hearing of the discoveries in Australia, they travelled on to Sydney in 1852, and made their way overland to various goldfields, eventually arriving at the Sandhurst (Bendigo) diggings with their belongings in a wheelbarrow.

Early in the gold rushes at Bendigo the gold was won by washing shallow (or alluvial) gravels and clays. From 1853 onwards some miners sank shafts in order to reach the reefs of gold-bearing quartz deep below the surface. Ballerstedt bought a claim on Victoria Hill from a disappointed American Negro, Dido Weymouth, for £60 in 1854. After working the reef in that open-cut mine, he sank a shaft 300 feet (90 metres) and struck a rich reef of gold. He celebrated his luck with a champagne luncheon attended by Sir Henry Barkly, the Governor of Victoria. Christopher Ballerstedt had several successful claims on Victoria Hill, and in the 1860s he was probably the richest man in Bendigo if not in the whole of Victoria. He was known as "the father of quartz-reefing in Bendigo", as his success encouraged others to explore Bendigo's deep reefs.

One miner wrote of the excitement in Bendigo as the claims on Victoria Hill tapped new and richer reefs.

Victoria Hill is passing belief and inviting incredulity,
it is like an eastern tale, that within so small an area
there should have been extracted a plethora of wealth beyond
the dreams of avarice (*meaning excessive or insatiable desire for
wealth or gain*).

The Ballerstedts were well-known and respected citizens of Bendigo. When the Duke of Edinburgh arrived in Bendigo on Wednesday 18th December 1867, a written address was presented to him on behalf of the miners of the district, signed by [Theodore Ballerstedt](#), T Burrows (appropriate name for a miner!) and H Hattam.

Christopher Ballerstedt died in 1869. Two years later his son Theodore and his wife sold the Ballerstedt assets to George Lansell and returned to Magdeburg in Germany. At Bendigo's majestic Shamrock Hotel they were farewelled by his mining friends. Richard Andrews said: Your name will always be identified with the great mining interests of Bendigo to the development of which your late lamented father, whose memory will forever be dear to all who knew him, so eminently contributed by the energy and perseverance which he, with yourself, devoted to opening up the now worldwide known and celebrated Victoria Reef.

Theodore died only two years later in Magdeburg. Many other Germans mined on Victoria Hill, either as owners of claims or as paid miners (eg the Wittscheibes, Hildebrandt, Alloerden, Luffsman, Utberg, Koch, Schlotterlein, Wybrandt and many others), but Ballerstedt was the most successful.

Source

<http://www.bendigo.ws/Our-History/People/Christopher-Ballerstedt.html>

and links to the 3 miners who died in the Victoria Hill Mine.

Compiler's Note.

The three mining deaths were:

- August Friedrich [STOPP](#) - buried at the White Hills Cemetery on 17/07/1859.
- Johann [SIEBASSE](#) - buried at the Bendigo Cemetery on 27/04/1860.
- John [TAYLOR](#) - buried at the Bendigo Cemetery on 9/12/1868



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