

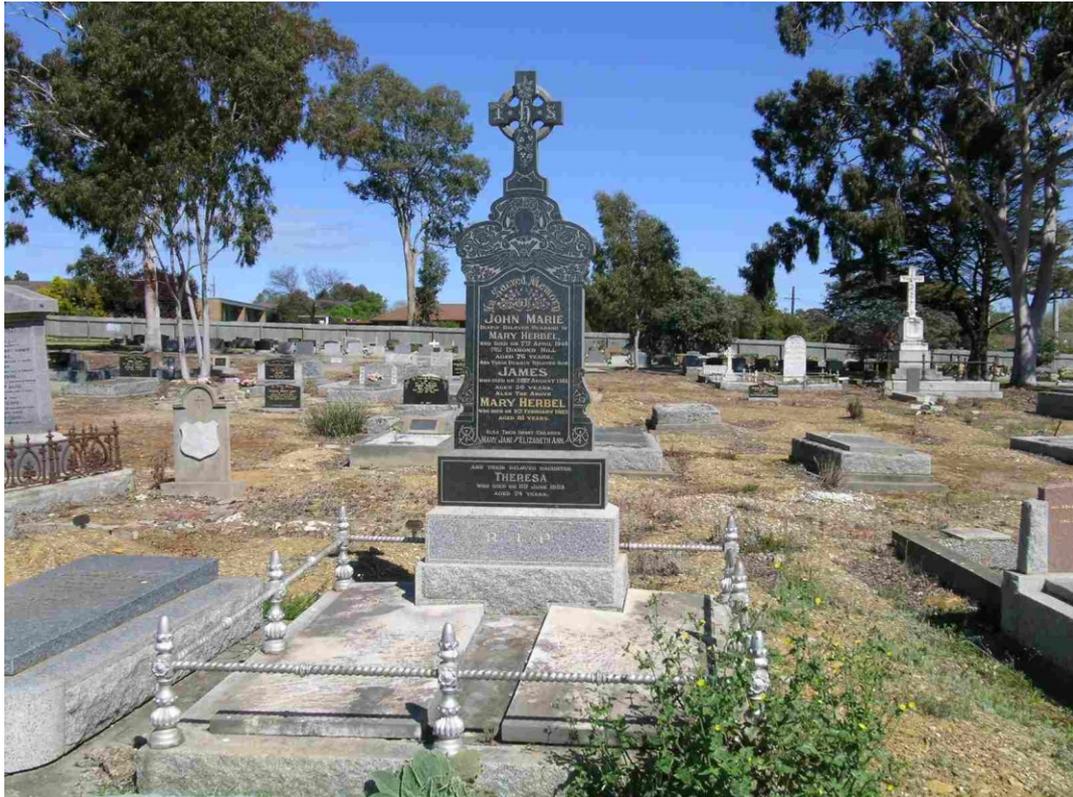
Kangaroo Flat Cemetery



Photo 2021



Photo 2006



Family grave for John Marie Herbel and son James Phillip Herbel.
John was married to Mary.

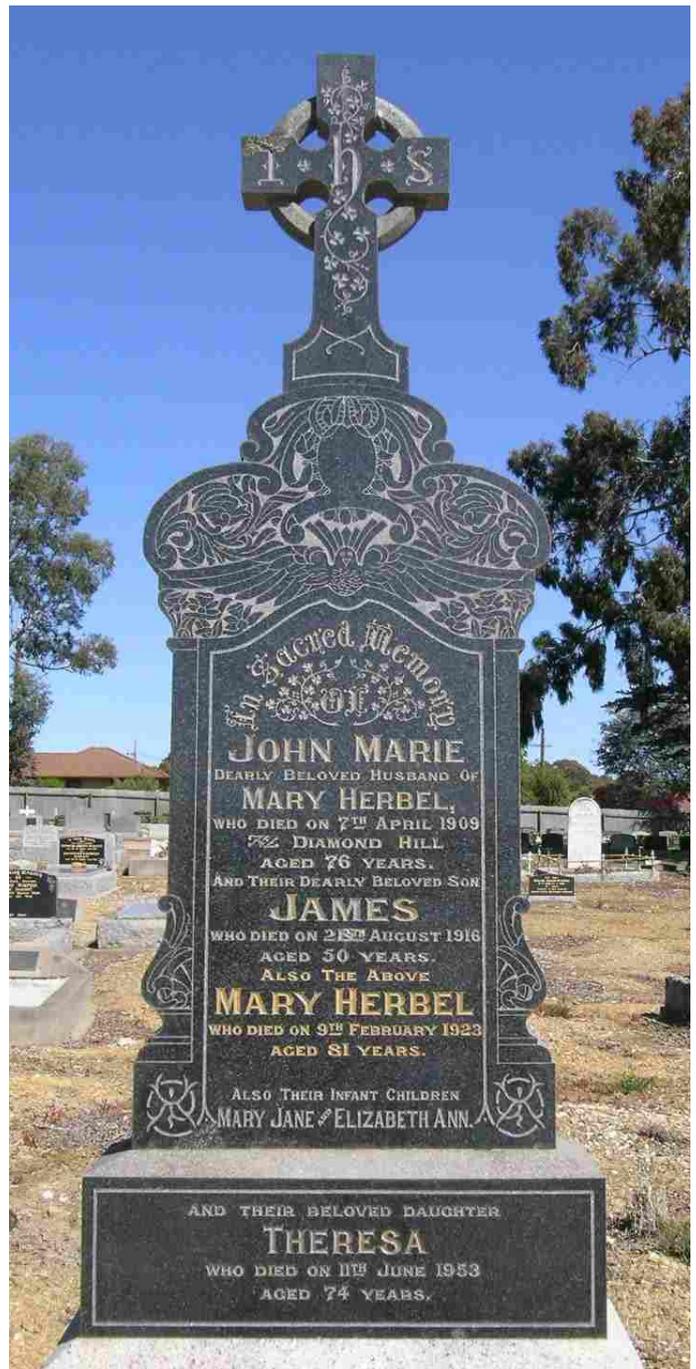
Images:
Herbel_RC_260.JPG
to
Herbel_RC_260C.JPG

In Sacred Memory
of
JOHN MARIE
Dearly beloved husband of
MARY HERBEL
who died on 7th April 1909
at Diamond Hill
Aged 76 years
and their dearly beloved son
JAMES
who died on 2nd August 1916
Aged 50 years
also the above
MARY HERBEL
who died on 9th February 1923
Aged 81 years

also their Infant Children
MARY JANE and **ELIZABETH ANN**



and their beloved daughter
THERESA
who died on 11th June 1953
Aged 74 years



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John Marie Herbel

The Bendigo Independent (Vic. : 1891 - 1918) Sat 10 Apr 1909 Page 5

DEATH OF ANOTHER PIONEER.

Mr John Herbel, another old pioneer, died on Wednesday last at the age of 76 years. He was a native of St Malo, Brittany and had an interesting career. He arrived in Victoria in 1853. He worked at first as a digger and then had a puddling machine at Sailor's Gully, and later on at Golden Square. About 30 years ago he

erected a mining plant at Diamond Hill on a property now known as Herbel's private mine.

His father and other relatives fought on the French side at Trafalgar in 1805, and an uncle was promoted on the field by Napoleon at the Battle of Friedland (a battle won by Napoleon against the Russian Empire in 1807), and subsequently served with distinction as an officer of the Old Guard.

The deceased leaves a widow and five sons and three daughters. Among the sons are Francis, manager of the Golden Fleece mine at Diamond Hill, Edward, manager of the Nell Gwynne mine, James, manager of the private mine, and John, foreman in the railway workshops, Melbourne. Mrs Luke Murphy is a daughter of the deceased, the other two daughters being unmarried. The interment took place on Thursday at the Kangaroo Flat Cemetery, leaving his residence, Diamond Hill, at 2 o'clock. The coffin bearers were Messrs J Hogan, J O'Grady, L Murphy and J Kelly. The Rev Father Healy read the burial service, and Messrs Fizzjle and Mulqueen carried out the funeral.

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James Phillip Herbel - son

The Bendigo Independent (Vic. : 1891 - 1918) Tue 22 Aug 1916 Page 3

SHOCKING MINING FATALITY,
FALL OF EARTH AT NEW GOLDEN FLEECE
MINE MANAGER KILLED.

Another of those appalling sudden mining accidents, which from time to time shock the whole community occurred at the New Golden Fleece mine, Diamond Hill, yesterday morning, between 9 and 10 o'clock, James Herbel, mine manager, being instantaneously crushed to death by a fall of earth at the 650ft level. The shift boss, J Ott, and a miner named Ashley Hall, were also injured, but fortunately, not seriously.

Following his daily custom the manager was making an inspection of the workings from 550ft to 750ft, in company with the shift boss.

Starting at 550ft they descended through the old stopes to the 620ft workings, from which the stoping to the main level at 650ft continues on the rill. Two men, Ashley Hall and James Godfrey, were boring a heavy piece of ground in the front stopes, immediately above the timber, the latter extending to within 10ft of the face of the main level. Herbel and Ott passed through this slope, reaching the main level by the travelling way a little further south.

Work in the level was suspended some time ago pending the completion of shaft sinking, and having squared the front slope nearly into the end, the mine manager decided to resume driving. He was giving instructions for the extension of the

level, approaching the face in order to make his directions clearer, when about 20 tons of rock fell from the back of the leading stope. Striking the edge of the timber the mass broke and two thirds of its bulk crashed into the level on top of the manager, whom the debris completely enveloped.

Ott, who was standing on the side of the level at the end of the timber, was caught by the rebounding rock and pinned up to the shoulders against the leg of the timber set.

The portion of the fall that remained above the timber in the stope struck Hall on the back, but Godfrey, being further south in the stope was uninjured. Willing hands came to the rescue, from other parts of the mine, and after considerable difficulty released Ott from his perilous position.

Herbel, however, had been completely buried by the fall and some time elapsed before the rock was removed. The extensive nature of the fall precluded all hope of the mine manager being found alive, and anticipations were all too surely realised when the men at last succeeded in reaching him, death having apparently proved instantaneous.

At the surface Dr A E Frost examined the body, finding the chest crushed in, the right leg broken, and abrasions about the head, confirming the belief that the unfortunate manager had met a violent and shockingly sudden death. Dr Frost subsequently attended Mall and Ott, both of whom had remarkable escapes. Ott's injuries were bruises and abrasions on the back, shoulders and hips, and a 3in scalp wound. Hall receiving bruises across the lower portion of the back. Their injuries are not regarded as serious, and both men were able to proceed to their homes.

The body of the mine manager was removed to his mother's residence in Hargreaves Street. James Herbel was a single man, 50 years of age, and resided with his mother.

He was of an exceptionally quiet disposition, and a general favourite with his employers and the men under his control. His death makes a heavy toll on the bereaved mother and relatives, his brother, Francis, having died from miners' complaint a short time ago, while occupying the same position with the New Golden Fleece Company. The inquest was opened by Mr J W W Beaven PM, at 5 o'clock yesterday, and adjourned to the Warden's Court, Bendigo, at 11 am, on Monday next.

Mr Samuel Prowse, Inspector of mines, who was examining Lansell's Little No 180 mine when notification was received of the accident, promptly left for Diamond Hill. He made an inspection of the scene of the accident, in company with Mr Fred Schruhrn and Mr John Saunders, both of whom had lent valuable

assistance in directing operations after the accident."

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Bendigo Advertiser (Vic. : 1855 - 1918) Wed 23 Aug 1916 Page 5

OBITUARY.

The funeral of the late Mr James Phillip Herbel, manager of the New Golden Fleece mine, took place yesterday to the Kangaroo Flat Cemetery, leaving his residence, "St Malo," Hargreaves Street, Bendigo, at 4 pm. A large number of friends attended.

The coffin was carried to the grave by six employes of the Golden Fleece Company, namely, Messrs W McBeth, W Beveridge, J Flight, P Hopley, J Cooper and T Harris. The pall bearers were Messrs J H McColl, J J Stanistreet, R A Rankin, W Casley, T Cook and W H Taylor. A large number of employees at the mine marched in front of the hearse. Many choice floral tributes were received, including one from the directors and legal managers of the Golden Fleece Company, and another from the employees. The Rev. Father Sullivan officiated at the grave. Messrs Fizzle and Mulqueen carried out the mortuary arrangements.

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The Bendigo Independent (Vic. : 1891 - 1918) Tue 29 Aug 1916 Page 7

MINING FATALITY.

NEW GOLDEN FLEECE ACCIDENT.

ACCIDENTAL DEATH.

A MINER'S WARNING.

In the Warden's Court yesterday an inquiry was conducted by the Coroner (Mr J W W Heaven PM) concerning the death of James Phillip Herbel aged 50 years, mine manager of the New Golden Fleece, who was killed at that mine on Monday, August 21st by a fall of earth. Mr S Prowse represented the Mines Department, and Constable Earnshaw, of Kangaroo Flat, assisted the Coroner.

The following jurymen were empanelled: - William C F Penna, miner, Eaglehawk; John T Pascoe, miner, Long Gully; John Kidd, miner, Lily Street; Albert W Brown miner Thistle Street; Joseph N Martin, contractor, Vine Street; Bartholomi Andrea, retired carter, Bullock Creek Road; John Grillett, grocer, Mt Korong Road, Ironbark (foreman).

Edward Herbel, mine manager, and brother of the deceased, living in Hargreaves Street, deposed that his brother was manager of the New Golden Fleece mine.

Dr Frost medical practitioner, Golden Square, deposed that he was called to the mine. The body was in a building and from a superficial examination he found the ribs on the right side of the chest were broken. On the back of the body were a number of bruises. Air had escaped from the front and back of the body. This had been forced out of the injured lungs.

Mr Beaven: It is more than likely the air escaped from the lungs through being penetrated by the broken ribs? - Yes.

John Ott, living in Shamrock Street, Golden Square, deposed that he was employed as shift boss at the mine. On August 21 he went to work at 7 am, and at about 7.30 proceeded down the 650ft north main level; along that level and up into the stopes where Frederick Godfrey and Ashley Hall were working. He gave them instructions to work any loose ground down with a bar, and then left. About 40 minutes later he returned and Godfrey said he had worked the loose ground down, adding, "What about putting a hole in here," at the same time pointing the drill north-west.

Godfrey said such a hole should bring a pile of ground down, but witness replied it might only bring down what they were boring for. Witness then left, and about 9 o'clock he met Herbel and proceeded with him to the end in the north level. On reaching where Godfrey and Hall were working they commenced talking about driving, standing beneath the timber. They walked a few feet south, and then back again.

The ground immediately came away and fell on the deceased and witness. He was knocked down and buried up to the shoulders in quartz. Frederick Godfrey came to his assistance and began to remove the quartz off him. Other miners then arrived and assisted in getting him free.

When the men were removing the quartz off him they were throwing it in the centre of the face. He said; "Don't throw it in the face, I think Jim is there." The quartz was then removed from the centre of the face and they discovered the deceased. He was in a kneeling position with his head bent down. When the body was free it was found to be lifeless.

To Mr Beaven: He had been engaged at the mine since October last. He had examined the particular spot by sounding it the previous Thursday. He considered it to be sound, although it had a heavy appearance.

He had had a conversation with deceased as to the safety of this ground some time the previous week, and Mr Herbel's opinion was the same as his. They decided that the ground should be worked down and this was the work Godfrey and Hall were engaged in when it came away. The responsibility of working the mine rested primarily on the deceased. He followed Mr Herbel's instructions.

Replying to Mr Prowse, who produced a longitudinal section of the workings, the witness said he did not personally examine the ground on the morning of the accident. There was a tendency for the ground to be weak.

Frederick James Godfrey, miner, living at Golden Gully, deposed that he was working in the stopes above the 650ft north level. He received instructions from Ott to work the loose ground down from overhead with a bar. When this was completed Ott returned, and it was agreed that they should commence to bore.

He said to Ott, "This boring is going to bring down a good burden of quartz. Ott replied, "It may not, kindly what you put your bore for." About 9.30 Mr Herbel came along and standing back behind them, asked, "How is that ground over your head?" He replied, "It is drummy ahead" - meaning further north - but witness received no reply. Deceased went away; returned a few minutes later and stood under the timber. Witness said, "That ground is drummy over your head," - meaning the ground which eventually fell away.

A few minutes later, Mr Herbel, who had again left, returned with the shift boss and they got out ahead of the timber under the ground. Witness said, "That ground is no good over your head." They stepped back but he received no reply. In less than a minute they stepped under it again, Mr Herbel being in front.

Almost immediately 10 or 12 tons of quartz fell down. He caught hold of his mate Hall and pulled him back against the hanging wall. He then jumped down on the timber. He found Ott partly buried, but could not see Mr Herbel. He asked Ott whether he was hurt much, and the latter replied, "There is stone on my back; try and shift it."

Other miners came on the scene, and they released Ott. Before reaching deceased they removed three or four tons of quartz. Replying to Mr Beaven, Godfrey said he had been employed at the mine for five months. In his opinion the ground was alright where they were boring, but it was not safe to be under it. He had not worked in this stope prior to the day of the accident.

Ashley Hall, miner, living in Happy Valley, who was working mates with Godfrey, gave corroborative evidence.

William McBeth, miner, also gave evidence.

Addressing the jury, Mr Beaven said:- "Really it is so simple that it is almost an insult to your intelligence in summing up. This large quantity of quartz was regarded as being unsafe to anyone being underneath it. Of all persons the manager was the one who inadvertently or thoughtlessly took the risk of walking underneath it, when the mass came down. I cannot see any suggestion in the evidence of anyone who is to blame. It is purely a matter of misadventure. There is nothing involved that I can assist you in."

After a brief retirement, the jury returned with a verdict that deceased was accidentally killed by a fall of earth.



Compiled by Olwen Fenton & Ian Belmont
in August 2021
for the Bendigo Cemetery Obituaries & Notes