

## HISTORY OF KANGAROO FLAT CEMETERY.

Kangaroo Flat Cemetery was the first public cemetery on the Bendigo Gold-fields and hired the first Sexton. It also holds the distinction of being the longest continuously operating cemetery on the Victorian Gold-fields.

The history of the cemetery at Kangaroo Flat has been very hard to research as few documents survive. This small community on the outskirts of Sandhurst rarely rated a mention in the early newspapers. Moreover many residents chose to be buried in the Bendigo Cemetery.

In 1851 and 1852 some burials occurred in lone graves on hillsides south of Kangaroo Flat and were unrecorded. The first burial in the cemetery was Simpson who was murdered by being burnt in his store tent. The cemetery was described as, "unenclosed cemetery the west side the township". This was some months before Victorian registration of deaths commenced in July 1853. The first Trustees were probably appointed in 1853 by the Marong Road Board. G. P. Vlarrack was appointed Managing Sexton and Secretary on the April 1854.

By Feb 1857, the 10 acre cemetery was divided into 10 separate denominational areas: Roman Catholic, Jewish, Church of England, Presbyterian, Unitarian, Society of Friends, Independent, Baptist, Pagan area (called Chinese) and Other Denominations. Chinese tombstones were removed in the 1960's. The Chinese area has been redesigned and resold as part of the lawn area which has been beautifully developed. Around the periphery there used to be a cypress hedge and galvanized iron fence.

From the pre 1900 era there are sandstone, cast-iron, unpolished and polished granite, slate and imported Carrara marble tombstones, but less than 300 remain. Most tombstones now present were erected in the 1950-80 period.

This text copied from the KF brochure compiled by Carol Holsworth in 1992.

Produced by Ian Belmont in February 2022 for the Bendigo Regional Cemeteries project.

A self-guided tour brochure  
of selected Graves at the  
Kangaroo Flat Cemetery  
Cnr Lockwood Road &  
Helm Street

Bendigo Family History Group  
Our Volunteers are on duty at the  
Bendigo Library  
Wednesday 10am – 4pm  
and  
Saturday 10am – 3pm

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251-259 Hargreaves Street, Bendigo

*A gold coin donation is welcome.*

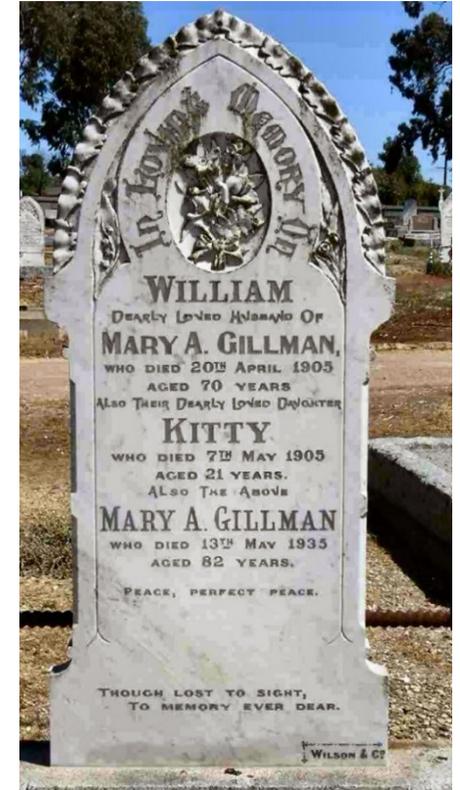
This self-guided tour brochure links (via QR code)  
to online obituaries for featured graves.

Web page link via QR code



[www.bendigograves.com/KF\\_Grave\\_Tour/  
KF\\_Grave\\_Tour\\_list.htm](http://www.bendigograves.com/KF_Grave_Tour/KF_Grave_Tour_list.htm)

Graves Self Guided Tour  
Brochure for  
Kangaroo Flat Cemetery  
Cnr Lockwood  
Helm Street



If we value our cemetery heritage, we must preserve the few tombstones that remain and the history of the cemeteries and the lives of our buried pioneers.

**Cover headstone** – William Gillman, a miner and investor in mining & a publican. His wife Mary was the licensee of the Rising Sun Hotel, Barnard Street.

**1 JANE MARSH.** Homemade sandstone tombstone. Hard to read. She died in 22/05/1856, aged 3 years.

**2 JAMES LUXTON.** 3 headstones in this family grave for James Luxton. He was a builder. He died in 8/04/1867, aged 47.

**3 LESLIE NOBELL.** An Andrews' double family grave, with Leslie Nobell, a miner, who died in a mine accident in 1909, aged 21.

**4 CHARLES GRIGG.** A miner, Charles died in a mine accident in 1888, aged 22. Read the poem in the headstone.

**5 CHINESE SECTION.** Levelled and sold.

**6 JOHN THOMPSON.** Family grave for Thompson. This headstone is now lying on the ground. His burial details not recorded in cemetery records.

**7 CHARLES PORTER.** Died in hospital in 1881, from injuries received in a mine explosion. Long inquest. Note: A Porter children grave just to right.

**8 EDWARD BISSILL.** Made his money in gold, become a large property owner in Sandhurst. Died in 1903, aged 95.

**9 JAMES LEWIS.** James was a market gardener. He died in 1899, aged 87.

or

**THOMAS CROWTHER.** He died at home in 1885, aged 57 years. Inquest verdict of suicide by poisoning.

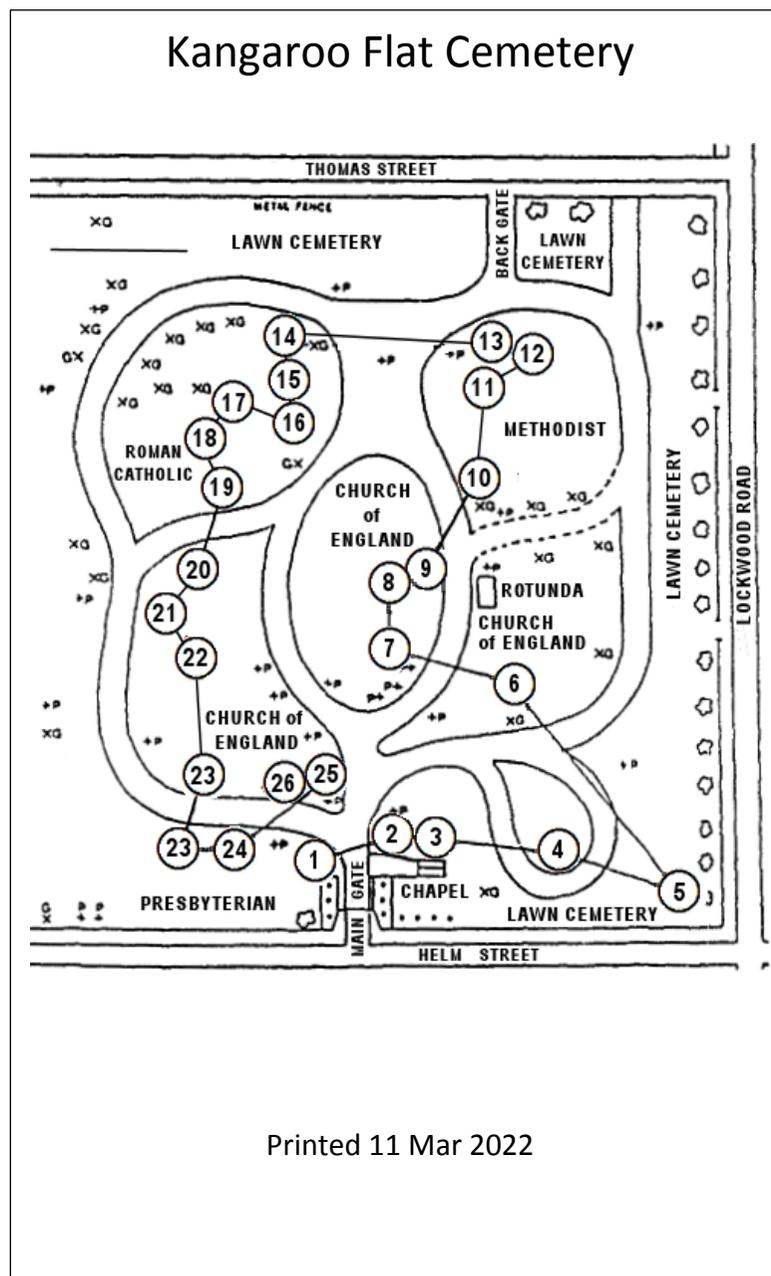
**10 MOORE BROTHERS.** Well known brothers **James** and **Thompson**. Storekeepers in KF and Old Bendigonians. James died in 1881, aged 62, crossing the railway. James had Millewa Hall built. Thompson died in 1912, aged 79.

**11 WILLIAM GRIFFITHS.** William made his money in gold. He died in 1906, aged 74 years.

**12 PETHERICK FAMILY GRAVE.** William was a butcher. He died in 1941, aged 80. Notice the crossed flags in 1916.

**13 ROBERT LAWSON.** Robert was in the 1<sup>st</sup> AIF. His grave is maintained by the Australian War Graves Commission.

**14 MARTIN CLIFFORD.** Martin was a well-known cab proprietor. He died in 1895, aged 57 years. A four horse drawn hearse, three mourning coaches and 70 vehicles attended his funeral.



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**15 GEORGE BIRD.** Council water cart driver. George died in 1943, aged 78 years.

**16 CONNOLLY FAMILY.** Michael & family were from East Shelburne. He died in 1946, aged 82 years.

**17 JOHN MARIE HERBEL.** A Frenchman, who worked the goldfields with a Puddler machine. He died in 1909, aged 76.

or

**JAMES RYAN.** Grave of 3 children. This sandstone headstone fretting ie gradually wearing away.

**18 JOHN VALLI.** A publican of the Club Hotel, High Street. Notice the metal shield headstone.

**19 WILLIAM GUNN.** He built & owned the Raywood hotel - he called Gunn's hotel, and was Mayor on 5 occasions. He died in 1918, aged 64. He was born in KF.

**20 JABEZ CARTER.** A gold miner, who was born in Cornwall. Notice the space left on tombstone for more family.

or

**JOHN SCHOOLING** Research has found no information him except to say he was a shoemaker.

**21 WILLIAM HALL.** Aged 24, William was killed in a machinery accident in 1918.

**22 CHARLES A.F. TAYLOR JP.** Associated with all matters of public interest, promoting the welfare and progress of the district. One time undertaker and trustee of the cemetery. He died in 1923, aged 83 years.

**23 JAMES SMITH.** James was a well-known baker at Kangaroo Flat. He died in 1894, aged 57.

or

**23 WEBB CHILDREN.** Children of Thomas & Mary Webb. This headstone is propped against tree.

**24 JAMES STEVENSON.** James was a merchant at the Victoria Store, High St. He died in 1891, aged 56 years.

**25 TRUELOVE CHILDREN.** A broken hard to read sandstone headstone. The high fatality rate of children was due to poor living conditions.

**26 MARY ROWBOTTOM.** Nothing is known of this family. Mary died in 1859, aged 10 years. The headstone is holding up, better than the Truelove stone.