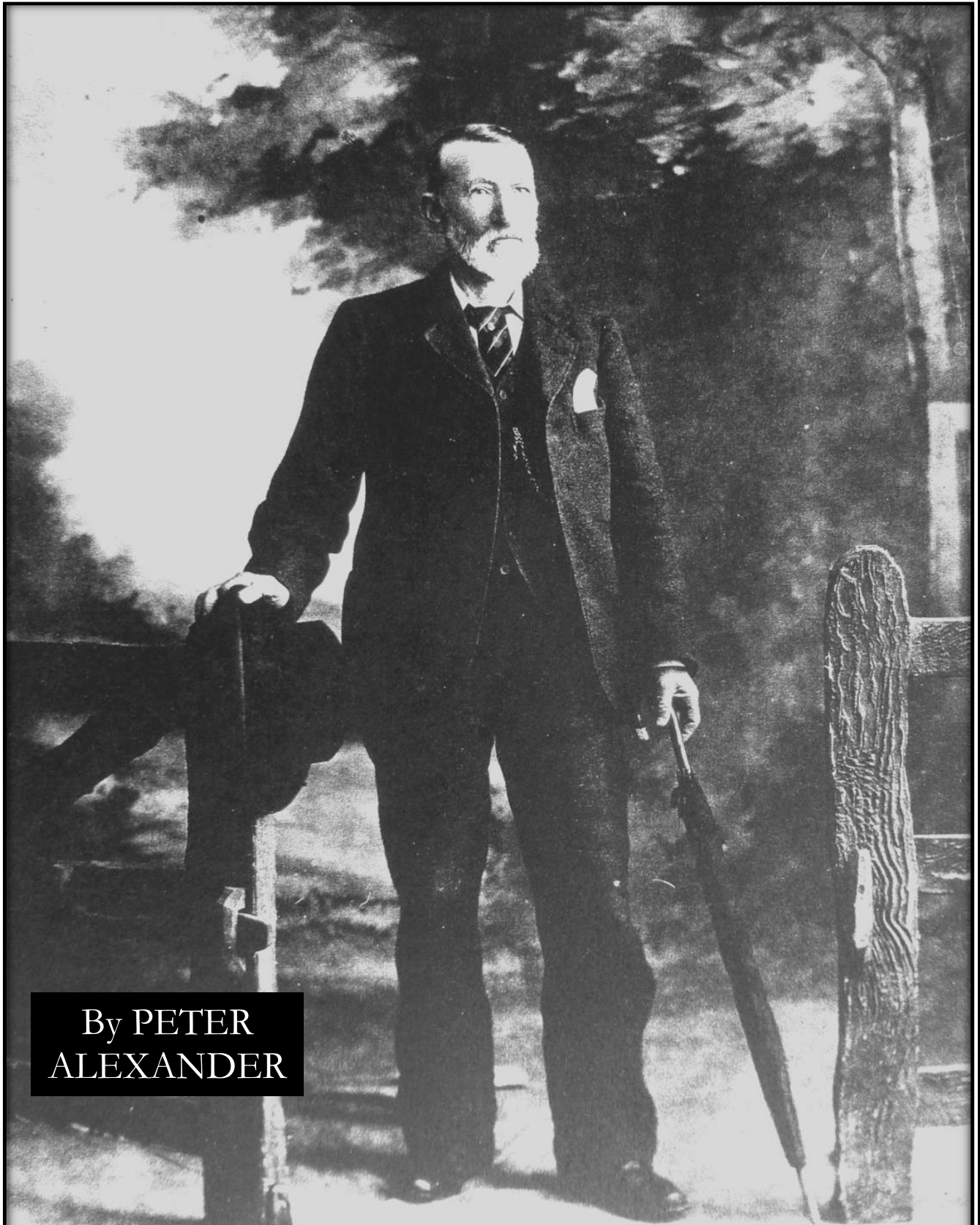


WE'VE ALL COME FROM SOMEWHERE

Part 2: The Alexanders Ancestry and the Queensland Story



By PETER
ALEXANDER

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Cover Image

Charles Booth Alexander in his later years.

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INTRODUCTION

In the past, family stories were passed down by word of mouth from generation to generation. Sometimes, either by a lack of interest or forgetfulness, these stories can be lost in time. As I grew older, I became more interested in my ancestors as it has helped me to understand who I am. This document will, hopefully, encourage our family and families now and, in the future, who can now read about someone they've never met but could get to know. We can develop a connection to the past and a better perspective of our own family story. That is the magic of family history—bridging generations by getting to know those who came before us.

I have endeavoured to trace our ancestry on both sides of my family. On my mother's side, the Lucas/Williams line and on my father's side, the Alexanders. During my research, which has taken many years, I became immersed in our nation's history and our family which played a small part in building this great country we now call home.

My wife Robyn and I have travelled through sections of the Victorian Goldfields, Mission Beach, and the Atherton Tablelands in Queensland. Also, Tasmania, knocking on doors of historical societies and libraries, reading research books, and visiting university libraries as well as the hours spent on the internet visiting sites such as Trove, Family Search etc.

I see it as first finding a skeleton and then looking for the flesh to bring a person back to life. What was it like living at that time? And trying to understand a person's time in their life. I've been amazed by the documentation available, the books, and the research done by some family members and researchers before me. In this search, I found out about the lives of our ancestors, some in detail and others in scattered documents, or with little or no written record at all.

My role was to compile what I found to determine what is relevant and pass it on to future generations so they can build on this story. This presents a challenge for all my family to continue this research and determine the line where their family fits. Sometimes it is like working on a jigsaw puzzle, who fits where, especially when it comes to photos and scraps of paper that some member of the family has passed on.

This is a story about where we have come from and the stories of men and women who forged their lives as first settlers, the pioneers with back-breaking hard labour, very large families to feed and raise, and some burying their children either through accident or disease. Also, the pain of leaving their families back home in the motherland, realizing that they will never see them again. On my mother's side, they came in chains after living on the prison hulks moored in British harbours, chained hand and foot for years before being transported across the oceans to New South Wales with the first fleet.

Others came seeking fame and fortune as free settlers to gold rushes, mainly in Victoria in the 1850s. Others went to Queensland buying huge pastoral properties, some becoming the coffee barons of Australia. Yet somehow, despite the appalling conditions, whether it was floggings or starvation, most of them succeeded, except for one, where life ended at the gallows, 20-year-old Charles Williams Jr. in Tasmania in the year 1829. Some fought in both World Wars, where some survived and others died on the battlefield.

Today, as an Australian of the fifth, sixth or seventh generation who can trace their ancestry back to those men and women who went before us, is a proud man indeed. What a story they all have of life in Australia and the making of this great nation.

PREFACE

The Alexanders were Scottish, coming from the Forfar region in Angus Shire. In 1854, Charles Alexander was a Carpenter and Joiner, and at only 22 years old he migrated to Victoria, with hundreds of thousands who hurried from overseas, scrambling to the newly discovered goldfields somewhere in Australia, all seeking riches.

Gold was attractive because it was one of the few ways in which most men who were poor and had little capital could become rich, and often fabulously so. In the first two years after news of the gold discovery reached Europe, more people arrived in Australia than had come in over 60 years since the First Fleet had arrived to establish the convict colony in 1788.

On the other side of my family are 1st Fleet Convicts arriving with Captain Arthur Phillip in 1788 to set up a new Colony of New South Wales. Convict Nathaniel Lucas was also a Carpenter and Joiner where he and his sons made their mark in Australian history as exceptional builders in this newly formed colony.

He was one of the first people to develop wind-powered grain mills in Australia. To my amazement, I found out that I am 5th Generation First Fleet on my mother's side, coming down the Lucas / Williams line.

I read in the newspaper recently that Australia's population had just reached 25 million (March 2019), and to think that my forebears arrived in the first one thousand four hundred white inhabitants.

Books written on my ancestry include:

Part 1 *Lucas / Williams / Alexander Lineage.*

Part 2 *The Alexanders ancestry and the Queensland Story*

Part 3 *The Victorian Alexanders. (German/Irish Mix.)*

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS & SOURCES

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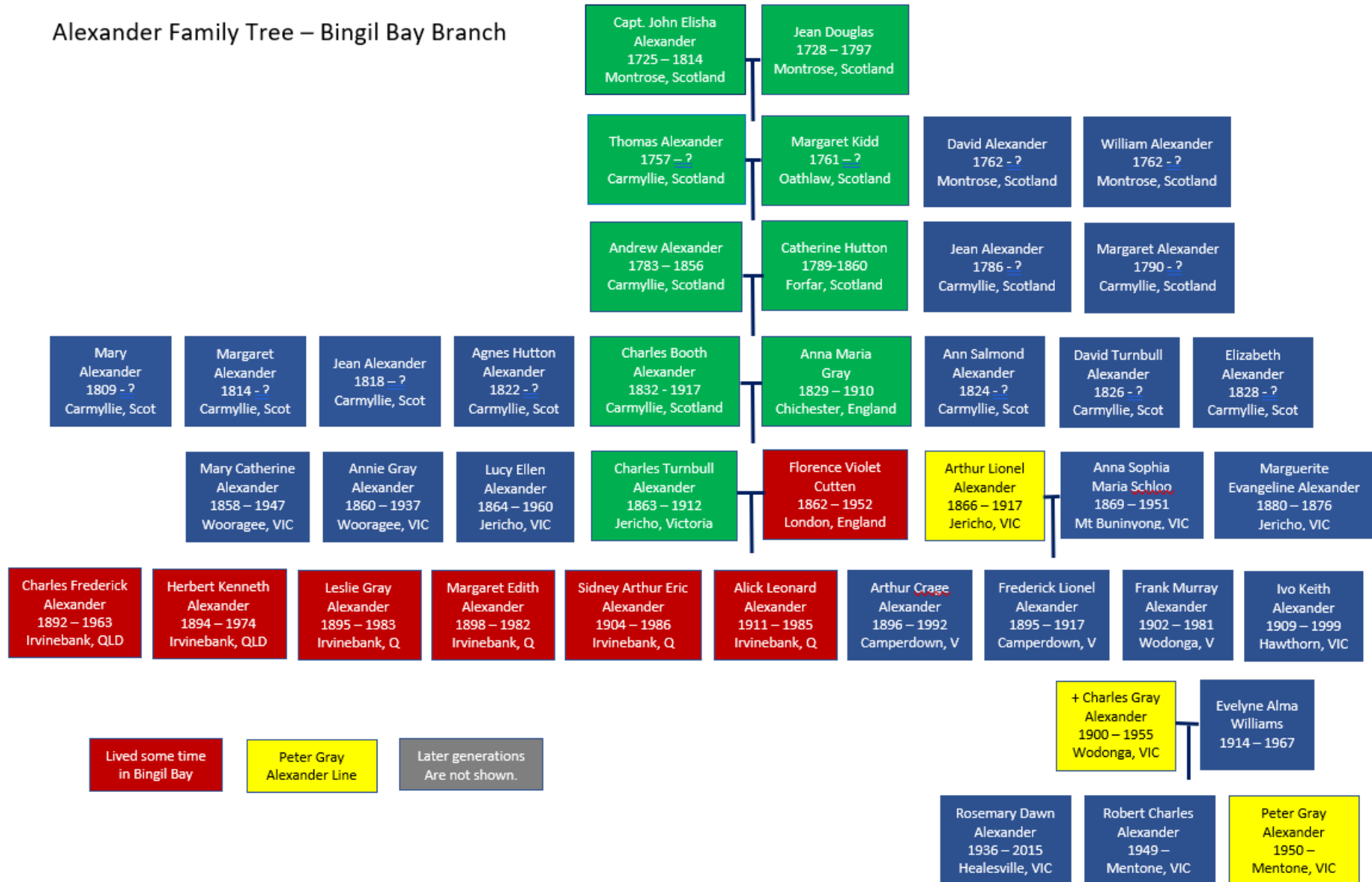
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FAMILY TREE

Alexander Family Tree – Bingil Bay Branch



CHAPTER 1 | THE ALEXANDERS

The four main characters of this Alexander ancestry are my great-grandparents:

Charles Booth Alexander and his wife Anna Maria Gray:

Part 2

George Frederick Schloo and his wife Mary Crege:

Part 3 (a separate publication).

These ancestors all arrived in Victoria by sailing clippers from Scotland, England, Ireland, and Germany between 1852 to 1859 during a time of mass migration and an age of discovery.

Charles Booth Alexander

Our ancestors came down through **Andrew Alexander**, who married **Catherine Hutton** on 16th April 1809 at the Parish, Church of Scotland, Carmyllie. They were tenant farmers at East Hill, Carmyllie.

Their Children were:

Mary Alexander	Born on 8 th November 1809 at East Hills, Carmyllie.
Margaret Alexander	Born on 8 th February 1814 at East Hills, Carmyllie.
Jean Alexander	Born on 1 st November 1818 at East Hills, Carmyllie.
Agnes Hutton Alexander	Born on 12 th June 1822 at East Hills, Carmyllie.
Ann Salmond Alexander	Born on 14 th July 1824, at East Hills, Carmyllie.
David Turnbull Alexander	Born on 13 th August 1826 at East Hills, Carmyllie.
Elizabeth Alexander	Born on 18 th August 1828 at East Hills, Carmyllie.
Charles Alexander	Born on 3 rd March 1832 at East Hills, Carmyllie. (<i>Great Grandfather</i>).

Later in life, Charles added a second given name, Booth.

By the time the first Government Census was taken the family had moved to Glamis Road, Forfar, Scotland. Forfar is a small town of 16,000 population today just north of Dundee. **The 1841 Census** was the first recorded British Government document to count all the people in each house at midnight on the night of 6th - 7th June 1841 and record some specific details about them. Up until this time, Births, Deaths, and Marriages were recorded by the church. The 1841 Census for the Parish of Forfar in Glamis Road, Forfar, shows Andrew Alexander, 55 years old, farmer; Catherine, 50 years old, wife; Jean 23 years old, handloom weaver; David 14, Elisabeth 11 and **Charles** 8. The other three older girls, Mary 32, Margaret 27, and Agnes 19 had left home.

It's interesting that there were 19 people in this house on the night of census. I am wondering whether this was a poor house.

The 1851 Census for Arbroath Parish shows **Charles Alexander**, 19, was boarding with Margaret Smith, his profession was a Joiner. (Carpenter and Joiner). His older brother David, 27, was married to Margaret, and they had a son aged one. David was a Blacksmith.

The 1851 Census for the Parish of Forfar in Glamis Road shows Andrew Alexander 68, Retired Farmer. No other persons from his household. Catherine had separated from Andrew and was now living with one of her daughters at 104 West High Street, Forfar.

Andrew Alexander died on 1/ 2/1856 at Glamis Road Forfar, aged 73. Catherine Alexander died 23/2/1860 at 104 West High St. Forfar, aged 69 Most of Charles' sisters married and some went to America and Canada. I have been in contact with some of these descendants in Canada.

CHAPTER 2 | MIGRATION

This is where our story gets interesting as in the early 1850s gold was being discovered in distant lands like America, Canada, Australia, and New Zealand. Nuggets were as big as your fist. Scotland and Ireland were in serious trouble with a potato famine and crop failures. Landlords realized that it would make a better business to evict crofters who eked out a bare living farming their lands and replace them with more profitable flocks of sheep as the price of wool and mutton were at a peak.

Populations were cleared, whole families were in effect evicted and their homes burnt down. Some agreed voluntarily to leave their crofts accepting that they must make room for the sheep. They went without protest though they must have known that within a short time, they would be destitute, as any small compensation they received would not last long.

Massive depopulation occurred and many of the evicted migrated to the New World. Scottish people have fought against endless hardship and Scotland's largest export was people. A mass migration scheme started, when places like Australia, which had only been settled for 60 years, needed more free settlers to populate the vast country.

Governments offered assisted passage for hard-working men and of course, lots of women. The West Coast and Highlands of Scotland were in more trouble than the rest of Scotland, so agencies from these countries were set up for this mass migration. This meant ships had to be built and plenty of them. The shipyards of Glasgow were kept busy keeping up with orders. These ships were *sailing clippers*, some weighing around 2,000 tons. Some could carry up to 600 passages plus cargo and provisions.

One such ship was called *Storm Cloud*, an iron-hulled, full-rigged ship built in 1854 by Alexander Stephen & Sons at Glasgow. She had three masts, weighed 798 tons and was 195 feet long. The Glasgow Herald wrote on 17 July 1854:

This truly noble ship has been constructed expressly with the view of attaining a higher speed than any other vessel ever built in this country or any other. If we may judge from the exquisite beauty of her mould, she promises to fulfil all that is expected of her."

In September 1854, Charles Alexander, being a 22-year-old Carpenter and Joiner, was a high-spirited lad out for an adventure. The family encouraged him to go to Australia for the good of his health, and the local policeman, a friend of the family, suggested the same as Charles was often on the edge of trouble. (That anecdote comes from son-in-law Harry Buchanan who went to Scotland and heard the story there.)

Generation after generation had been living and dying at Carmyllie; hardship was a way of life. Charles had money and bought an Unassisted Passage on the brand-new clipper, *Storm Cloud*, which was claimed to be the fastest ship ever built. He travelled on her maiden voyage to Melbourne, Australia. Leaving his large family, his brother and sisters, mother and father, nieces, and nephews, he would never see any of them again as he was going to the other side of the world.

Storm Cloud sailed out of the Clyde River, Glasgow, Scotland with 73 passengers in September 1854. Captained by James Adams, she headed for Melbourne and encountered heavy gales and contrary winds heading down to Cape Horn, South Africa. As they sailed from Cape Horn to Melbourne, about half the entire passage was run in the unprecedented short space of 20 days. One day *Storm Cloud* logged 345 nautical miles at an average speed of 15 to 16 Knots. All passengers landed in good health and spoke highly of the ship and crew. This trip took 88 days and on later voyages to Melbourne, she did it 71 Days.

In 1863, *Storm Cloud* was wrecked off Akyab, Burma, in the Bay of Bengal on her way to Calcutta. Today Akyab is named Sittwe in Myanmar. The *Storm Cloud* had probably been commissioned by the British East India Company.

In December 1854, on B Port, Melbourne, Charles stepped foot on Australian soil and for the next 63 years made Australia home. He became a husband, father, gold miner, builder, hotel owner, publican, undertaker, investor, engineer, and mine owner. Leaving Scotland was the best decision he ever made.

CHAPTER 3 | ANNA MARIA GRAY

(Later called Annie, and my Great Grandmother)

Born on July 7th, 1829 and baptized at St. Peter the Great Sub Deanery in West Street, Chichester, Sussex, England.

Father: James Gray, born in 1801. The son of John Gray and Ann.

Mother: Mary Gray (nee Comper), born in 1801, daughter of Henry and Mary Comper.

Anna had two older brothers: James Comper Gray was born in 1826 in Chichester, Sussex and became a clergyman. He was the author of a five-volume commentary on the New Testament in 1871 called **The Bible Museum** and wrote many books. Several Bishops recommended him and Prime Minister Gladstone admired him.

I now have a copy of volume one of The Bible Museum. It is leather-bound and has gold edging. I bought this book on the Internet, and it was sent to me from London. It is dated 1871.

Her other brother was **Henry Comper Gray**, baptized 12th May 1827 at St. Peter the Great, Chichester, Sussex, England. **The 1841 census** on the night of 6th June shows her father **James Gray** was 40 years old. His profession as recorded was a hop seller. He was born on 30th August 1801 in Parish Gwennap, Cornwall. Her mother, **Mary Gray (nee Comper)** was also 40. James was 15 and Anna was 12. There is no record of Henry. They lived in South Street, Parish of Sub Deanery, Chichester.

Anna's uncle, Henry Comper Esq., (1831-1877), from North Pallant, and Anna's cousin Harry Comper, Esq., of Little London, were bankers. They owned the Chichester Bank in East Street with others. Also listed was Richard Comper, a linen draper of East Street. They were recorded as *Gentry* in the Chichester Post Office Directory in 1851.

The *Bristol Mercury and Devizes and Wiltshire Gazette* also stated that on 20th June 1833, James Gray (Anna's father) of Chichester, salesman of clothes (Draper), was bankrupt.

CHAPTER 4 | LIFE IN CHICHESTER

Chichester was once a small Roman outpost, situated sixty-one miles southwest of London and thirty miles from Southampton. By the 19th century, however, the population of Britain had quadrupled, and this increase in population was also reflected in Chichester. The principal streets diverge East, West, North, and South from the ancient Gothic market cross. It was a walled city with the Cathedral, built-in 1333, having a 271-foot-high spire, that being the principal ornament of the city.

In the first years of the 19th century, Somerstown was built outside the city walls. More building took place in the Southeast corner of the town. There was still a manor house with gardens until 1809, when the land was sold to build more houses. The new area was called Newtown. Today, only one street still bears this name.

In the early 19th century, the market in Chichester was becoming very congested. The two weekly markets were held on Wednesdays and Saturdays. West Street was full of livestock for sale. There were also people selling food. To ease the congestion, it was decided to erect a building where people could sell things like butter, cheese, and vegetables separately from the livestock market.

In 1808, the Butter Market was built for this purpose. At the same time, railings were erected around the market cross. However, having a market on East Street still caused a lot of congestion in the town and impeded traffic. Therefore, in 1871, a new cattle market opened outside of the Eastgate.

In 1833, the Corn Market was built. In the late 19th Century, the front part of this building was used as a theatre and in the early 20th century as a cinema. Chichester gained gaslight in the 1820s. In 1826, the dispensary for poor sick people was renamed Chichester Infirmary. (Forerunner of St. Richards Hospital.) Chichester gained its first police force in 1836.

In Chichester, drunks were put in stocks. The last person to suffer this punishment was sentenced to two hours in 1852. In general, the houses were well constructed, the streets were paved and lit with gas. The trade consisted chiefly of corn, coal, timber, flour, and malt. The malting trade was rather extensive, and the selling of wool, tanning and brewing were of some importance.

Chichester had a reputation in the late 19th century as being an unhealthy and unsanitary place. In some areas of the town, people used cesspits. Some used buckets they emptied into the Lavant (drains?). The expense of building a network of drains and sewers discouraged many people in Chichester from doing so. They were finally constructed in 1893. Additionally, there was a significant amount of poverty and overcrowding. In 1846, Chichester was connected to London, Brighton, and the South Coast railway and in 1847 it was connected to Portsmouth.

Newry Telegraph - Friday 27 April 1832

[illegible][illegible]

In this competitive world of migration, the Australian colonies required the incentive of free passage and

land grants. There were so many potential migrants with insufficient income to support themselves and their families, much less afford the passage money to the dominions. This was recognized by the 1820s even while transportation was at its height and before the lure of gold discoveries in easily accessible places. In 1831, Lord Goderich, Minister for the Colonies, acting on ideas that had been percolating for some time through official circles, introduced the principle that colonial land is sold by auction, and that up to one-half of the land fund created was to be used to pay the passages of intending British emigrants.

The money was managed by the Colonial Land and Emigration Commissioners from 1840 until 1876. In 1840, the British Government showed renewed interest by reducing the charge of an assisted passage to Australia from £30 to £18, and by advancing £10,000 on the security of future land sales to assist emigration. Alongside this policy of assisted immigration, the Government encouraged the so-called 'bounty system' by which free settlers already established in the colonies paid for the passage of relatives and friends to come to Australia. 'Chain migration' and assisted passage became fundamentals of Australian immigration policy.

For some unknown reason, in October 1852, at the age of 23, **Anna Maria Gray** left her family, friends and home at South Street, Sub Deanery, Chichester and travelled to Southampton by train. There, she obtained an "assisted" passenger ticket on a sailing clipper headed for Melbourne called *Persian*.¹

The Persian was a government immigrant sailing ship that weighed 1,004 tons. It had been used as a convict transporter in earlier days and could carry 619 passengers. On this voyage, it is recorded that there were about 34 deaths from Southampton to Melbourne due to fever, dysentery, and lice. Just from this port of Southampton alone, 35 government immigration ships and six private ships headed for Australia in that year.

Just 64 years earlier, in 1788, Governor Phillip landed at Botany Bay, Sydney with the first fleet of convicts. When Anna Maria Gray arrived in Melbourne in December 1852, she would have walked into a much different world than she left behind.



Port Melbourne where thousands of migrants arrived each week during the 1850's gold rush.

¹ Book 7, Page 142. Index to VPRS 14 Register of Assisted British Immigrants 1839-1871, Public Records Office Victoria.

CHAPTER 6 | MELBOURNE 1852

Seventeen years earlier, in 1835, John Batman, a successful farmer in Northern Tasmania, desired more farming land. He entered Port Phillip Bay on 29th May 1834 to explore for more suitable grazing land, eventually finding the river we now call the Yarra. He formed a Tasmanian business syndicate known as the Port Phillip Association.

Author's note: Read about the founding of Melbourne and Port Phillip Bay in Part 1 of this book.

By 1841, the wealthy started to build houses of sandstone, including government buildings. In July 1851, Victoria became a separate colony from New South Wales and Latrobe, and its first Lieutenant Governor was appointed. Melbourne was already the centre of Australia's wool export trade.

The discovery of gold in Victoria in mid-1851 sparked a gold rush, and Melbourne, the colony's major port, experienced rapid growth. Within months, the city's population had nearly doubled from 25,000 to 40,000 inhabitants. Exponential growth ensued, and by 1865 Melbourne had overtaken Sydney as Australia's most populous city.

Gold was found in other places around the colony areas in 1852, including Beechworth, Bendigo, Ballarat, Ovens Valley, and Walhalla. The ensuing gold rush radically transformed Victoria and particularly Melbourne. An influx of intercolonial and international migrants, particularly from Europe and China, saw the formation of slums, including Chinatown as well as a temporary "tent city" on the southern banks of the Yarra.

In the aftermath of the 1854 Eureka Rebellion, mass public support for the plight of the miners resulted in major political changes to the colony, including improvements in working conditions across mining, agriculture, manufacturing and other local industries. At least twenty nationalities took part in the rebellion, giving some indication of immigration flows at the time.

Anna Maria Gray was part of this huge influx of people arriving in Victoria, all of them by sea. The population of Melbourne doubled within a year and in 1852, 75,000 people arrived in the colony. Immigrants who left Britain in 1852 bought more tickets to Melbourne than any other destination in the world. Lodging houses and hotels were packed to bursting point. Makeshift houses of iron, timber and canvas sprang up on the city's edge. The wharves were constantly jammed with shipping, cargo and migrants disembarking.

Society seemed to be turned upside down as diggers drank champagne from buckets and Irish maids paraded in silks and diamonds. This, along with the high birth rate, resulted in rapid population growth. A boom lasting 40 years was fueled by the goldfields' immense wealth. The influx of educated gold seekers from England, Scotland and Ireland led to the rapid growth of schools, churches, learned societies, libraries, and art galleries.

Nobody knew then, but 20 years later in the 1880s two decades of extraordinary growth, consumer confidence, easy access to credit, and steep increases in land prices led to an enormous amount of construction. During this 'land boom', Melbourne reputedly became the richest city in the world and the largest in the [British Empire](#) after London.

CHAPTER 7 | VICTORIAN GOLDFIELDS

Anna Maria Gray would have found a job as a governess as she was an educated lady. Eventually, she caught a Cobb & Co. stagecoach and headed for Beechworth, Victoria. At this time Records show, there was a John E. Gray at Beechworth who was on the first Shire Council to be elected in 1856. Other miners in the area at the time were William Gray, James Gray and Andrew Gray.²

It's possible that these were her contacts in Australia. Nearby were the towns of Wooragay (now called Woolshed) and Yackandandah. This area is at the foothills of the Alpine region called the high country, with mountains and icy, fast-flowing streams. This was a time of bushrangers, and the courthouse at Beechworth sent many of them to the Beechworth jail.

In 1856, Charles Alexander was also in this area mining at Woolshed.³ After Charles arrived in Victoria he would have headed straight for the goldfields and ended up in the Beechworth area at Woolshed near Wooragay.

The name Woolshed comes from an old woolshed built by Charles Cropper while driving his sheep from Manaroo to Laceby on the Kings River in 1838. Camped by a stream called Reedy Creek, his sheep were in poor condition, so he was compelled to rest up and shear them. Cropper erected a temporary wooden structure, called a woolshed. The entire valley was referred to as Woolshed and the name has remained to this day.

In 1854, when gold was discovered in this area, a miner named John Barton pulled the woolshed apart and used the wood to secure the sides of his claim. He came to be known as Woolshed Jack. Reid's Creek diggings broke out on 16th October 1855 where 20 pounds weight of gold was washed out from a single sluice.

On 23 October 1855, one claimholder from Woolshed took out 50 pounds in weight of gold in a week. A report dated 07 March 1856, states that Woolshed Creek, several miles long, was the richest spot yet discovered. Alluvial gold was principally mined by hydraulic sluicing, which required large quantities of water. Later, this method was replaced by dredging, which was pioneered at Woolshed Creek in the early 1890s.

Duncan Cameron, a digger who worked the riverbed at Woolshed, became the first Member of Parliament for Beechworth. He made headlines when he drove into Beechworth in a carriage pulled by a horse with golden horseshoes after his election in 1856. The Woolshed Creek mine had fallen into the hands of capitalists and combined parties of miners. There were 12 steam engines at Woolshed; at least 40 men were working in each 80-yard claim. Wages were about 7 pounds a week, the highest wage in the colony.

By 02 July 1855, Woolshed was experiencing a large and sudden inflow of people, pushing the population up to 8,000. Robberies were a constant occurrence with six constables and one sergeant on patrol.⁴ In 1853, in nearby Beechworth, the gold escort took 123,000 ounces of gold back to Melbourne. By 1857, the Beechworth population had increased to almost 20,000 and numerous churches, banks, stores and

² Electoral Roll for District of the Ovens 1856-7, Reid's Creek /Woolshed Divisions.

³ Electoral Roll for District of the Ovens 1856-7, Reid's Creek /Woolshed Divisions.

⁴ *Argus* Newspaper 1855.

hotels as well as a hospital had been established. Chinese miners were predominant in the goldfields during the 1860s and continued to form a large part of the population until the gold ran out around the turn of the century.

When **Anna Maria Gray** arrived in Beechworth in the middle of this gold mining boom, it was a big difference from Chichester. Tent shantytowns were popping up everywhere.

She found a job as a governess or schoolteacher in nearby Yackandandah. This information has been passed down through the family. Charles had caught her eye and before long, they married at the Kings Hotel at Wooragay on January 22nd, 1858. Records indicate that they were both 26 years old.

The marriage certificate states:

Place of residence: Wooragay.

Witnesses: Andrew Henderson and Caroline Dunn. Married by John C. Symons, Wesleyan Minister (Victorian marriage certificate 1858/128). Charles worked as a carpenter. Despite being 29, Anne listed her age as 26 on the marriage certificate.

Charles and Anna Maria Alexander settled at Wooragay for the next 3-4 years and the following children born were: **Mary Catherine Alexander** 1858 and **Annie Gray Alexander** in 1860 at Wooragay, Victoria.

Charles and Anna then moved on to the Gippsland Goldfields to Jericho in the Walhalla District in early 1862 in search of more gold and riches. They were part of the tidal wave of prospectors inundating the mountain country across the Great Dividing Range into Gippsland.

CHAPTER 8 | JERICHO ON THE JORDAN

After the gold rush had finished at Woolshed another gold rush was taking place in the southern slopes of the watershed of the Great Dividing Range in the high mountains of Gippsland Victoria. Gold was first discovered in 1861 in the Jordan River Valley with news of rich gold strikes and diggers working their way along the rivers and streams from Woods Point to Walhalla. Access to all these places required a packhorse and wagons along rough mountainous tracks.



Jordan River Valley.

As the gold diggers established themselves with mining leases, small towns began to be built. Some of these towns were Violet Town, Blue Jacket, Red Jacket, Dry Creek, Jericho, Victors Quartz, and BB Creek. The valleys and streams were very steep, with massive gum trees lining the riverbanks, and tree ferns growing as big as palm trees. The name Jericho came from one early settler because the place reminded him of the pictures in his bible of the palm trees there.

By 1862, when **Charles and Annie Alexander** arrived with their two daughters **Mary**, 4 and **Annie** 2, up to 4,000 men had poured into the Jordan Valley. These diggers were working over quartz gravel and pebble creek beds. Exhausted, but elated, their pockets were full of nuggets and gold dust.

Within the first six months following the discovery of the Jordan, Jericho town had grown beyond imagination. The air was rent by a cacophony of sounds, by timber cutters and shingle splitters. The rattling of sluice boxes and the clatter of picks and shovels echoed constantly around the steep slopes. Wood smoke flowed lazily from bark and stone chimneys, and slowly drifted down the Jordan River following this muddied stream all the way to the new villages of Red Jacket, Blue Jacket, Violet Town and Walhalla.

In 1862, Jericho township consisted of a main street, with forty or fifty places of business of one sort or another, the street being ankle-deep in mud during the wet season. There were two hotels, offering good accommodation, one called *The Niagara* and the other called the *Star Hotel*. These two hotels were packed after work hours and the proprietors seem to be properly appreciated. Music and dancing were the staple entertainment.



Two daughters, Annie Gray Alexander 2 and Mary Catherine Alexander aged 4 Jericho 1862.

Charles Alexander, being a Carpenter or Builder, was reported to have built many houses in the town as well as some of the first hotels, being the owner of *The Niagara* and the *Camp Hotels* in Jericho, as well as being the Publican. The *Camp Hotel* was a building with three sitting rooms and five bedrooms. He also had a sideline job as the town undertaker, burying many of the population when disaster struck, like one miner who fell off his horse and landed on his head. Or a 100kg woman they buried by the roadside as she was too heavy to lift.

As his wealth increased, Charles had other buildings for rent. By this time, the population of Jericho was 400 Europeans and 95 Chinese. Further down the river towards Red Jacket, the Chinese had built their own settlement called Chinaman's Point, about 1km from Jericho.

In 1865, Charles Booth Alexander offered both hotels for sale which made him a fortune. He was planning to visit Europe on the proceeds, but I don't think Charles and his wife ever went back there. However, he did invest in a mining company called The Star of the Mountain B.B. Quartz Mining Company in 1865, as noted in the Victorian Government Gazette. He bought 100 shares at 3 pounds each, totaling 300 pounds. The place of operations was at the junction of the BB Creek and the River Jordan, at Jericho. Other investors injected 480 pounds into this venture. Despite the poor outlook for the district, during 1866 an estimated 2,000 ounces of gold were still being extracted from the Jordan Valley per quarter, and miners working on the Jordan River and BB Creek were reported as making good wages.

In the mid-1860s, Jericho's heyday was on a downhill slide, comforted for a short time by the advent of quartz reefs. Out of the ashes of alluvial claims, leases and miscellaneous ventures rose a few lucrative reef mines.

CHAPTER 9 | WHERE DID 'BOOTH' COME FROM?

It was around this time that Charles gave himself a middle name **Booth**, as from all records researched the middle name first appeared in 1865. I started to wonder where Charles got his middle name Booth, and this is my understanding of how he obtained it.

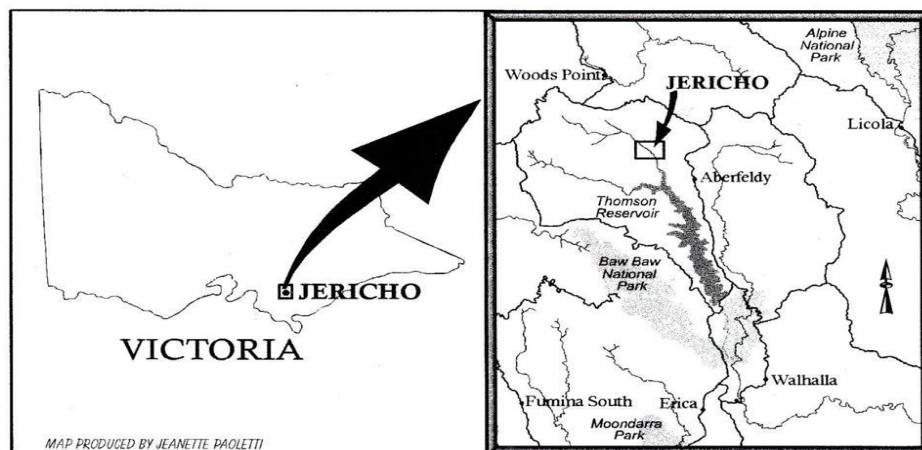
Charles' parents, Catherine Hutton (1788 – 1860) and Andrew Alexander (1783 – 1856) were married on 16 April 1809. Catherine's sister, Agnes Hutton (1791 – 1858) married Charles Booth, born at Dunnichen, Forfarshire (1787 – 1856). These are Charles Alexander's uncle and aunt. The 1841 Scotland Census shows Agnes Booth and Charles Booth to be living at West Carsebank, Parish Rescobie, Angus. The residents at census time were Charles Booth, (household head, age 50), Agnes Booth (wife, 48), Robert Booth (9), Nicole Booth (7), Alexander Booth (3), Margaret Frazer (servant, 23) and Agnes Alexander (servant, 19, Charles' sister, working for her uncle and aunt) and Ann Stormont (servant, 22)

Most likely, Charles Alexander and his cousin Robert Booth were raised together due to their age being the same. The relationship between both families must have been a close one as we can see by Charles' sister Agnes working as a servant for her aunt and uncle. She is also named after her aunt. To employ 3 servants, their house must have been large.

CHAPTER 10 | THE OLD YARRA TRACK

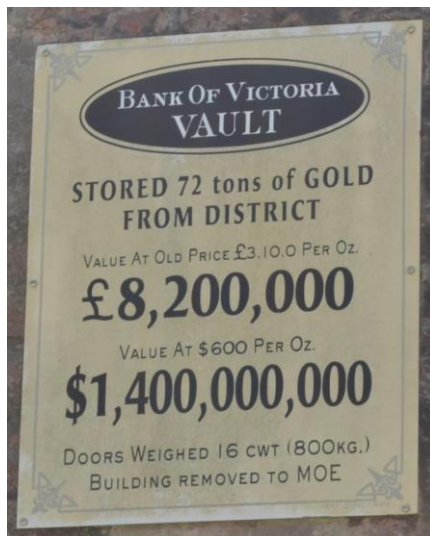
This rough dirt road stretched 40 miles from Melbourne to Healesville, then 21 miles to Marysville, a further 17 miles to Matlock, and then down the range on the Jericho track to Jericho. Those brave enough to travel its length endured hardship and torment on both man and beast alike. It would become a vital route to the goldfields in the future.

Abandoned equipment was covered by tarpaulins or bark until such time as the deep mud and snow dried out to allow the movement of horses and wheeled traffic, adding further cost and delay in setting up the mines. By the late 1860s, reef mining had come into its own. However, it was never to entirely replace individual mining operations. The cost of machinery and crushing material that had to be carted by packhorses over long distances, along perilous mountain tracks to the nearest battery was a great expense. There was a lot of heavy machinery needed. In the winter months of 1865, several loads of machinery, stampers boxes and shanks, and other mining equipment and merchandise were abandoned by the carriers along the length of the Yarra Track.





Water wheel at Jericho. Source: State Library of Victoria.



Walhalla Bank of Victoria Vault.

The price of gold in 2023 was US \$1,950 per ounce. The value of 32,000 oz to 1 Ton x 72 ton is \$US 4.5 billion.

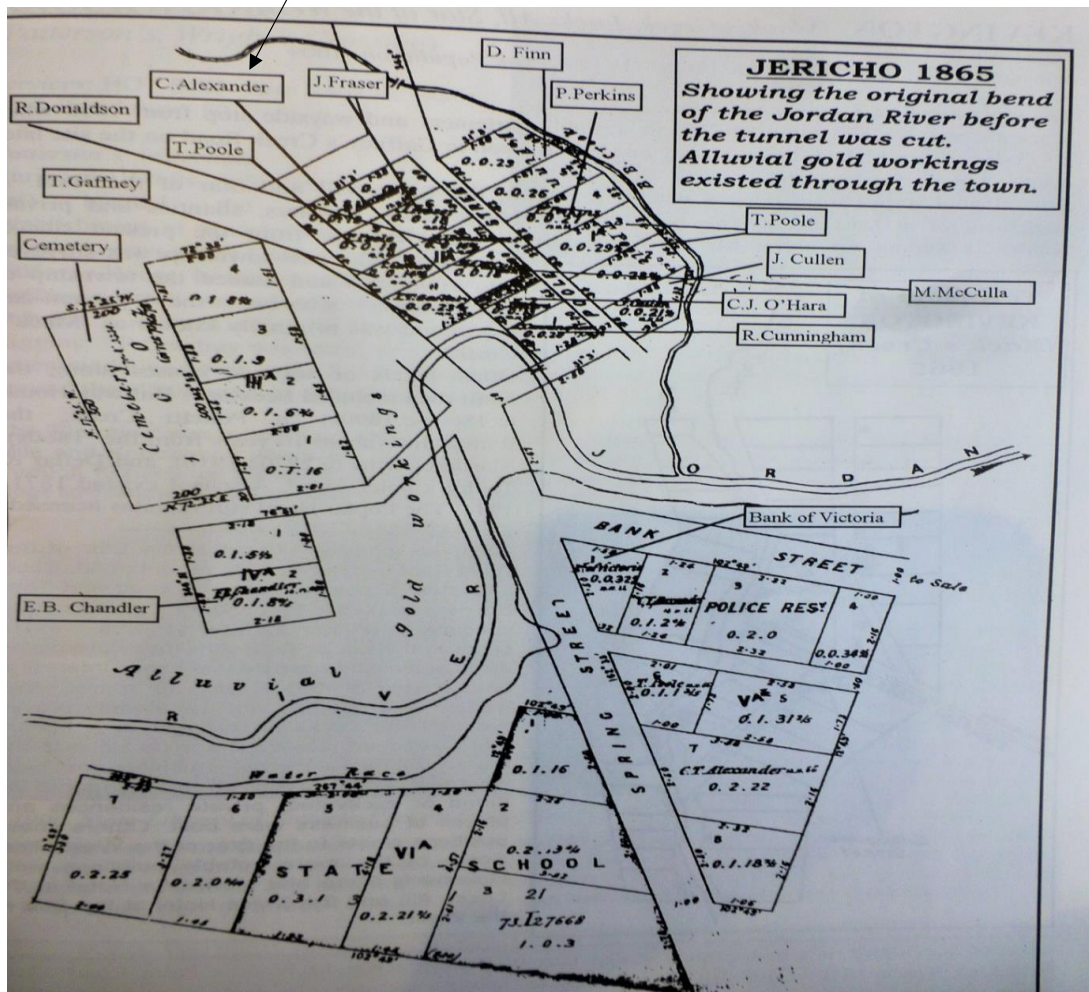
Charles and Annie Alexander continued to live in Jericho, where Annie gave birth to four more children.

Charles Turnbull Alexander, was born 31st March 1863 (named after his brother David Turnbull Alexander).

Lucy Ellen Alexander was born 11 August 1864.

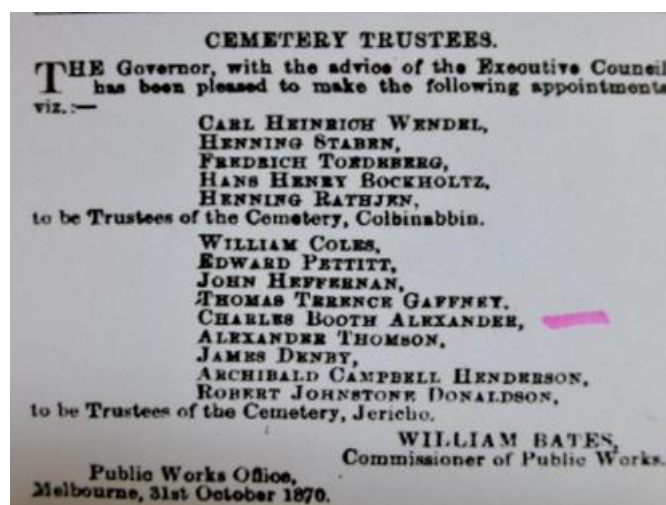
Arthur Lionel Alexander was born on the 25th of May 1866 (my grandfather. His story is in **Part 3** of this book)

Marguerite Evangeline Alexander was born in 1869. (Victorian Birth Index Registration 09253).



Surveyor Thomas Thompson's 1866 map of Jericho. Thompson River and Dam have been named after him.

Charles must have liked his veggie patch as it was reported in the local paper on the 18th April 1866 that he grew a potato weighing 2 ½ pounds (just over a kilo).



Charles became a Trustee of the Jericho Cemetery in 1870.

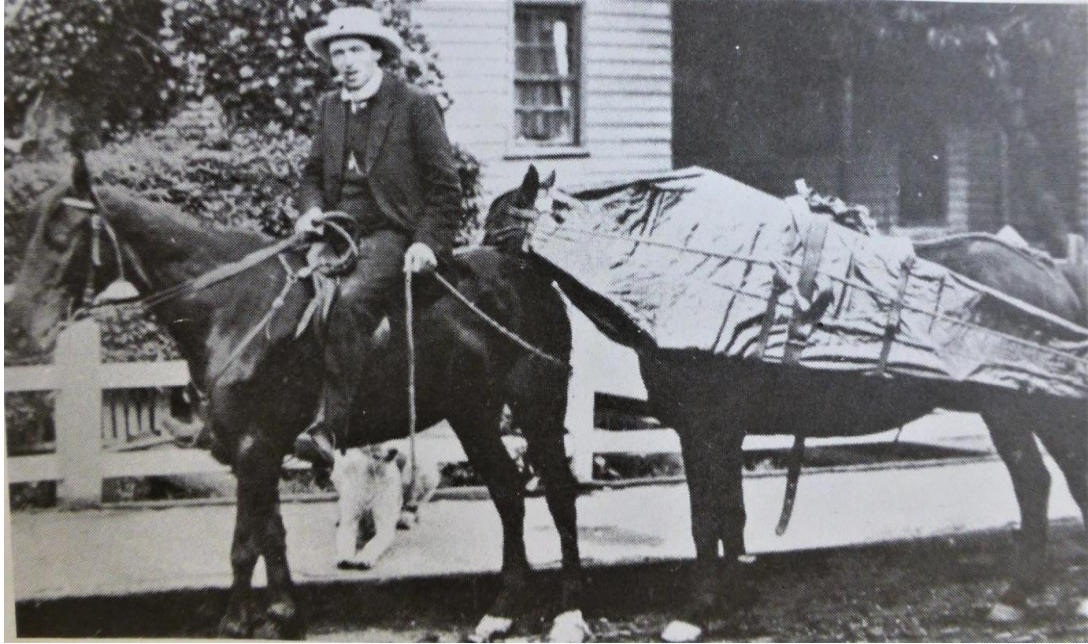


Photo of James Barry who carried out the role of undertaker in the Walhalla district.
A prospector's funeral was often quite a simple affair. Photo *The Walhalla Chronicle* 1897.

There were no State schools established until July 1873, but a Roman Catholic Primary School was established in 1865, called St Peter's Common School, with 20 to 30 children in attendance. Private tuition at home was given to children by parents who were religious. Bailliere's Post Office Directory of 1868 for the Jordan District has C.B. Alexander registered as a Publican.

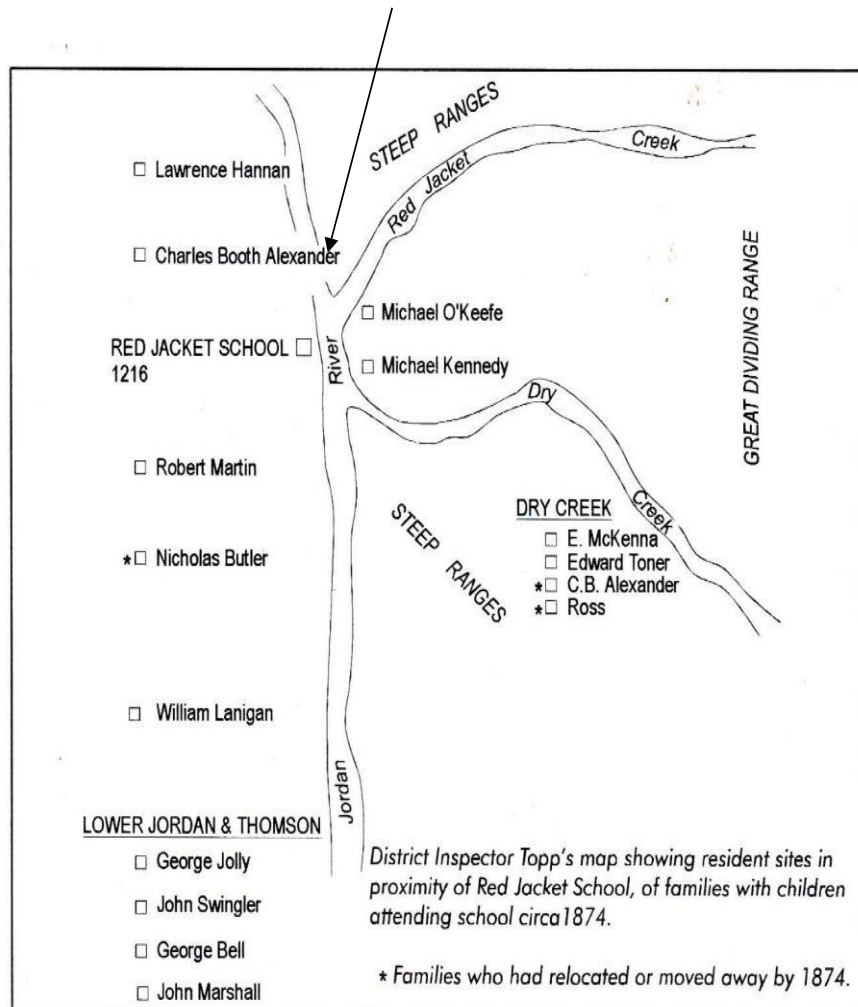
The mining village of Red Jacket Creek and Dry Creek met the Jordan River at the same location, which was three miles downriver from Jericho. The new Red Jacket school (SS1216) was opened on 1st December 1873 and was built next to Charles and Annie Alexander's house.

In 1874, Annie 14, Charles 11, Lucy 10, Arthur 8, and Marguerite 5, were all enrolled at the new school. The oldest child, Mary, (16), would have helped her mother with domestic duties at home.

During that year, Annie Maria Alexander worked part-time as a sewing mistress at the school.

Red Jacket town was never to grow to the extent that Jericho did, yet its permanence was assured with the erection of stores, a bank, the Jordan Hotel, butchery, private residences, and other essentials such as a church, school, and the cemetery. The town was to provide services for its nearby neighbors, Dry Creek, Blue Jacket, and Violet Town.

By this time **Charles** and **Annie Maria** had moved to Dry Creek where it was reported in the local newspaper on 8th August 1868 that Mary, aged 10 and Charles aged 5, children of Charles and Annie Alexander were rescued from the Jordan River by the Catholic school teacher Mr Patrick Cunningham.



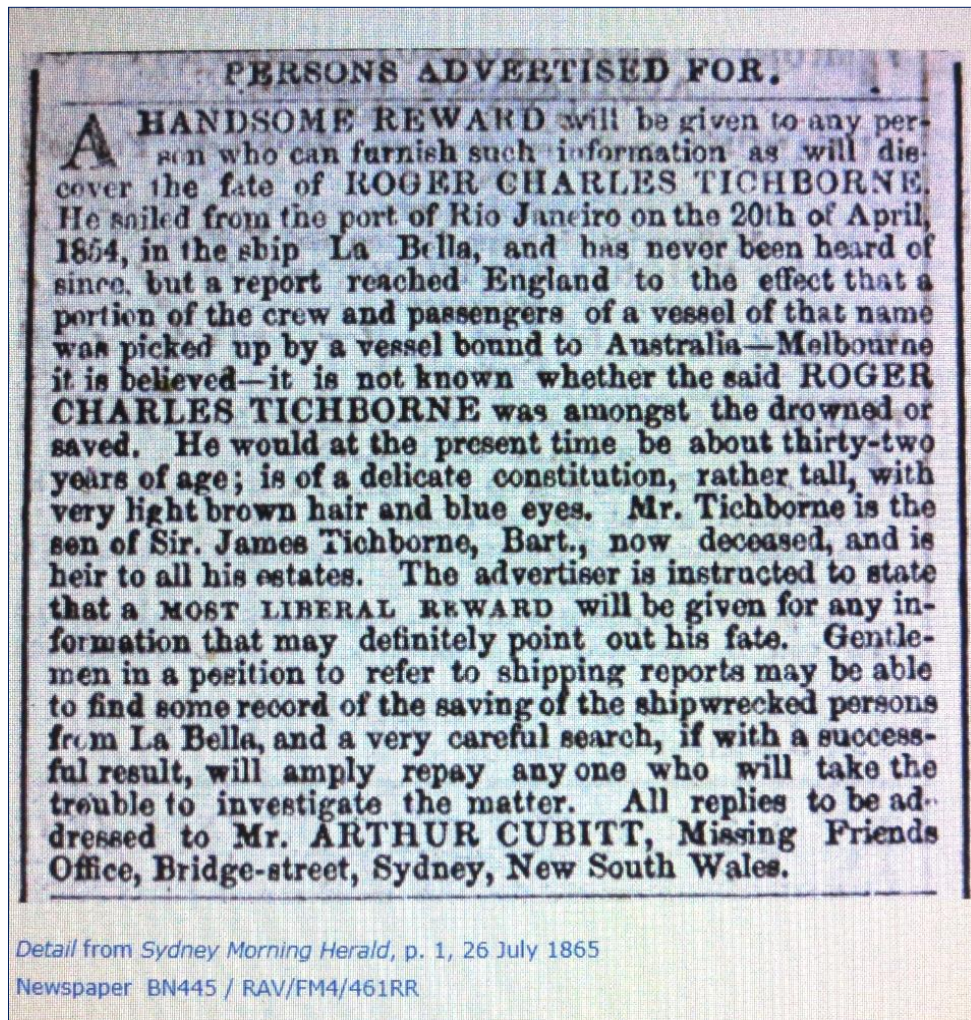
In 1872, Charles Booth Alexander became a shareholder in Defiance Quartz Mining Company while living at Dry Creek, as reported in the Victorian Government Gazette.

CHAPTER 11 | THE TICHBORNE CLAIMANT

All research here is by Robyn Annear in her book published in 2002 *The Man Who Lost Himself*. It was reported in the local papers⁵ that Mrs A.M. Alexander, of Dry Creek, was about to write a novel on the fortunes of the claimant, R.C.D. Tichborne, it being in her power, she states, to give a few leaves out of his history, which will rather surprise those who think him *Orton the Impersonator*.

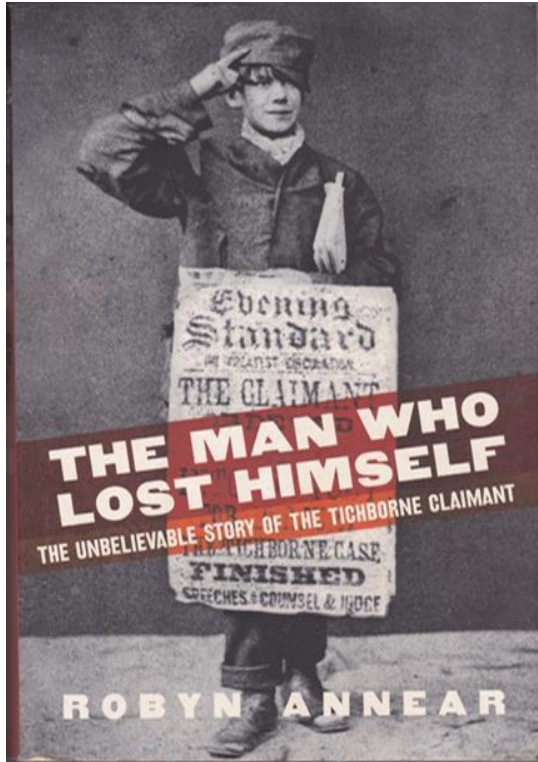
This story is about Sir Roger Tichborne, heir to a vast fortune of the Tichborne and Doughty Estates in Hampshire England in the late 1860s. He blamed his parents for not allowing him to marry Lady Radcliffe and instead sailed to South America disowning his family.

In April 1854, on passage back to America, the ship *La Bella* was wrecked and only a handful of survivors were picked up from a passing ship headed for Melbourne, Australia. Word had got back to England that Sir Roger had been lost at sea.



After his father's death in 1862, Roger's mother refused to believe that her son was dead and from 1863 advertised worldwide in newspapers seeking news of him.

⁵ *Gippsland Mercury*, 30th July 1874.



Cover of Robyn Annear's 2002 book.



The imposter: Thomas Castro.

William Gibbes, an Australian solicitor, sent Lady Tichborne a letter in November 1865 stating that a man who claimed to be her son had contacted him. This man was a butcher from Wagga Wagga, calling himself Tom Castro. Although he was physically larger than Sir Roger, had lighter hair and spoke no French, these discrepancies did not bother Lady Tichborne, who had not seen her lost son for more than ten years.

In January 1867, the claimant from Australia with his wife and family reached Paris where he was acknowledged by Lady Tichborne to be the lost son. He visited the Tichborne estates and acquired some powerful supporters, including the Tichborne family's own solicitor, Edward Hopkins, and Andrew Bogle, a former servant of Sir Roger's uncle.

Other members of the Tichborne family, however, asserted that he was an imposter and obtained evidence to try and prove that he was Arthur Orton (1834 – 1898?) who had deserted ship at Valparaiso Chile in 1849. They alleged that Orton had been kindly received at Melipilla, Chile by a family called Castro, whose name he took after he had gone to Australia.

During the trial, more than 100 persons swore that the Claimant was Roger Tichborne. This court case lasted from 1867 to April 1873, making it one of the longest court cases in history and making it world news.

Then out of the tiny gold mining town settlement of Red Jacket, near Walhalla, stranded high on the western flank of the mountain range severing Gippsland from the rest of Victoria, came a curious report of Roger Tichborne. Its source was **Annie Alexander** (nee Gray) a married woman with a family of six. Her husband **Charles** owned two hotels and had mining interests in the district. According to her account, Sir Roger and her were lovers in England while he was a cavalry officer.

Anna Maria Alexander was the sister of a high-ranked clergyman admired by Prime Minister Gladstone. As the daughter of James Gray and the niece of Mr. Henry Comper, a well-known Chichester banker, she made an excellent witness. She wrote to Guildford Onslow (member of the Tichborne Claimant's Defense Committee in London) in 1874, claiming:

... that she knew the Claimant to be the real Sir Roger. She stated in an affidavit that in the years 1847-8 I was well acquainted with Roger Tichborne, and that in the year 1855 I met a man in the colony of Victoria named Thomas Castro, the identical person I had known in England as Roger Tichborne, and for family reasons he intended to be known in Australia as Castro.

I also requested Mr Onslow not to call on me as a witness, nor to make the affair public, without it being absolutely necessary to save him. Mr Onslow now calls on me to save him. I have written to say I will come to England and do so without fee or reward, but simply for the expenses and hotel charges, more than this I cannot do, and it will be a great ambition, still for the Truth and Justice it shall be done.

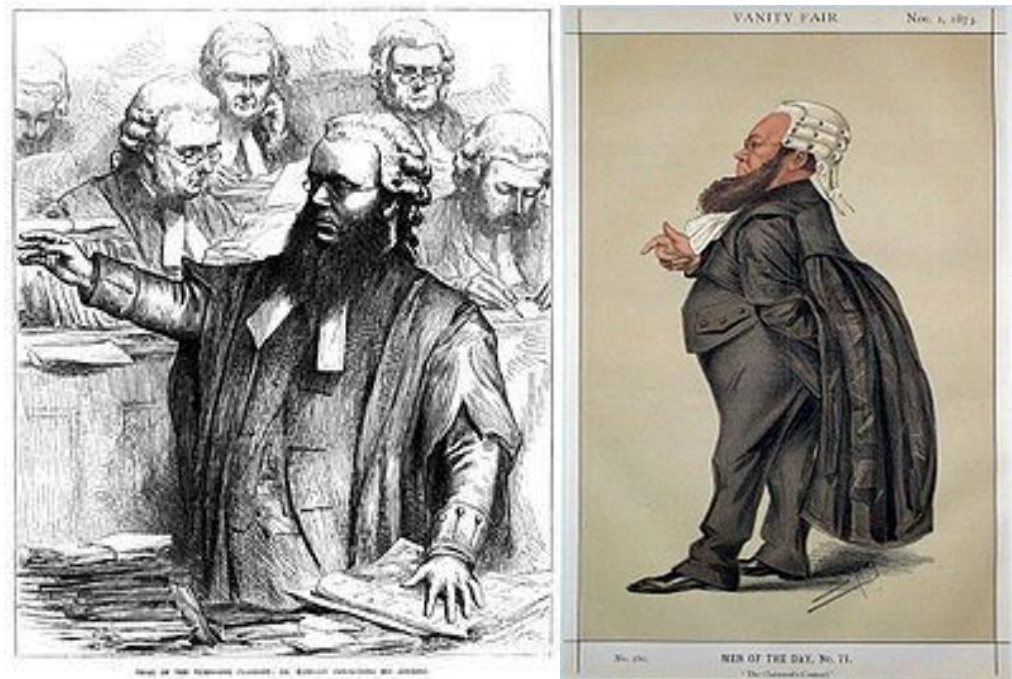
Onslow extolled her evidence as conclusive and hinted at an advance for her passage to England, but that never materialized. On February 28, 1874, the 188th day of the trial, it was determined that Arthur Orton was the claimant. He was found guilty of perjury and was sentenced to 14 years of penal servitude.

In October 1884, he was freed. Whatever the truth of her story, **Anna Maria Alexander** perhaps viewed the Tichborne case as her ticket out of Red Jacket where she felt she was locked in the mountains with the daily care of a large family.



Truth compels me...Annie Alexander photographed many years after her brush with the Tichborne case.

Edward Kenealy, Counsel for the Tichborne claimant, from Wikipedia.



Edward Kenealy, at the Tichborne trial.

Edward Vaughan Hyde Kenealy QC (2 July 1819 – 16 April 1880) was a barrister and writer from Ireland. He is best remembered as counsel for the Tichborne claimant and for his eccentric and disturbed conduct of the trial that led to his ruin.

He was born at Cork, the son of a local merchant. He was educated at Trinity College Dublin and was admitted to the Irish Bar in 1840 and the English Bar in 1847. He obtained a fair practice in criminal cases. In 1868, he became a QC and a bencher of Gray's Inn. He practiced on the Oxford circuit and in the Central Criminal Court as counsel for Arthur Orton, also known as Roger Tichborne, taking over the brief from William Campbell Sleight in April 1873.

Kenealy suffered from diabetes and an erratic temperament has sometimes been attributed to poor control of the symptoms. In 1850, he was sentenced to one-month of imprisonment for punishing his six-year-old illegitimate son with undue severity. He married Elizabeth Nicklin of Tipton, Staffordshire in 1851 and they had eleven children, including novelist Arabella Kenealy (1864–1938). The Kenealy family lived in Portslade, East Sussex, from 1852 until 1874. Edward Kenealy commuted to London and Oxford for his law practice but returned at weekends and other times to be with his family.

The Tichborne case

During the trial, Kenealy abused witnesses, made scurrilous allegations against various Roman Catholic institutions, treated the judges with disrespect, and protracted the trial until it became the longest in English legal history. His violent conduct of the case became a public scandal and, after rejecting his client's claim, the jury censured his behaviour.

Later, he started a newspaper, *The Englishman*, to plead his case, and to attack the judges. His behaviour was so extreme that in 1874 he was disbenched and disbarred by his Inn. He formed the **Magna Charta Association** and went on a nationwide tour to protest his cause.

At a by-election in 1875, he was elected to Parliament for Stoke-upon-Trent with a majority of 2000 votes. However, no other Member of Parliament would introduce him when he took his seat. Benjamin Disraeli forced a motion to dispense with this convention.

In Parliament, Kenealy called for a Royal Commission into his conduct in the Tichborne case but lost a vote on this by 433–3. One vote was cast by Kenealy, and another by his teller, George Hammond Whalley. The third 'aye' was by Purcell O'Gorman of Waterford City. During this period, he also wrote a nine-volume account of the case.

Dr. Kenealy, as he was always called, gradually ceased to attract attention, lost his seat in the 1880 general election, and died in London later in the year at the age of 60. He is buried in the churchyard of St Helen's Church, Hangleton, East Sussex.

Not long after this event, in late 1874, **Charles Booth Alexander** (now using a middle name) walked out of Anna Maria Alexander's life leaving her with very little money and 6 children.

He roamed for six years, eventually turning up in North Queensland.

In 1875, Mrs Anna Alexander of Aberfeldy applied for the position of teacher at Happy-Go-Lucky School in April 1875 and was appointed in June.

CHAPTER 12 | HAPPY GO LUCKY

A Gippsland Gold Town 1863-1917 by Dorothy and Marjorie Morgan.



Happy Go Lucky Mine.



Happy Go Lucky was a boom mining village in 1864, following the discovery of the rich Happy Go Lucky reef. There were three hotels, several stores, bakers, butchers, and restaurants amongst other business houses. Gold was also found nearby on the Thomson River at Cooper's creek, where another settlement had sprung up. A few months later, the Thomson River Copper Mining Company was established.

In 1865, the village was surveyed and a post office opened, reflecting the stability of the mines.

Red Jacket was flourishing, and Jericho was a surveyed town with hotels, business premises and rows of houses. It was estimated that 3,000 miners were working in the Jordan Valley. By the 1870s, work on the mines had slowed and Happy Go Lucky became a quiet *suburb* of Walhalla and wayside stopping place for travelers from Walhalla to Toongabbie and Traralgon.

On the other side of the Thomson Valley is Mt. Baw Baw, which is part of the Great Dividing Range and has an elevation of 1,567 meters or 5,141 feet. This alpine country experiences freezing temperatures in winter and cool temperatures in summer.

The struggle to obtain a school

As in most mining communities, the development of a settlement led to urgent demands for a school. In June 1872 a miner, Thomas Lee, wrote to the Education Department requesting the necessary forms and information. With its Education Act, Victoria was setting the standard for the world. Passed in that year, the act ensured free and compulsory secular education, but the gold rush years brought immense social problems to the young colony. Long term estimates of the population were impossible. While we sympathize with the parents, it is obvious that the authorities had to balance the claims on Government funds. A grant was sometimes available to purchase a site, but finance seldom extended to a building, as the parents of Happy Go Lucky were to discover after 3 years and the exchange of 20 letters.

Meanwhile, Mr E Alexander (no relation to us) the Postmaster, kept a small private school for the

younger children, while the older pupils walked to Walhalla on a mountain track used by packhorses and cattle. Inspector Topp, who came to investigate, agreed that the track was *excessively steep and dangerous in winter*. He would not recommend Mr Alexander as a teacher and suggested that the parents of the 25 children consider a half time school with Cooper's Creek where there were already about 19 children in attendance.

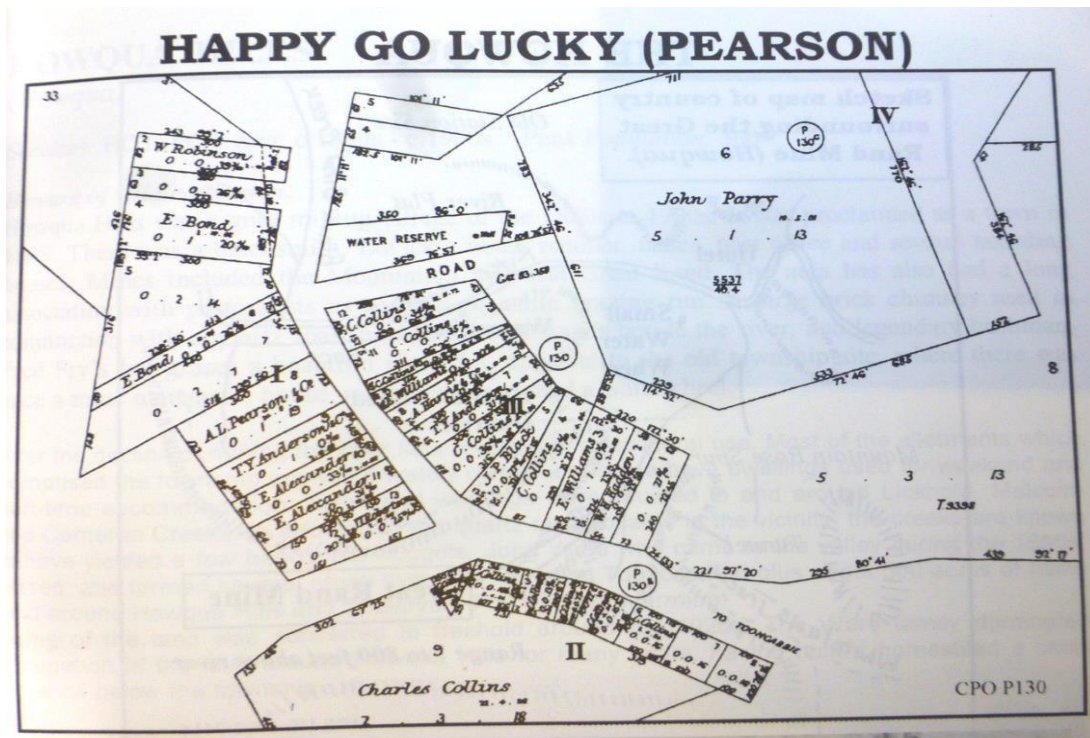
Mr Alexander left the district in April 1873, and a month later Charles Collins the Postmaster was asked to report on a suitable building. He mentioned *a fine house for sale between Happy-Go-Lucky and the Coppermine for Forty pounds which would make a splendid school and dwelling house for the schoolmaster*. Unfortunately, the owner refused to lease, the government was unwilling to purchase, and the residents were unable to raise the money.



Mrs Williams Union Hotel 1901 Happy Go Lucky (T. Armstrong SLV Picture Collection.)

Mr S. Williams offered his Union Hotel, but it was also rejected. Mrs Henry pointed out in a letter dated 3rd June 1874 that the population of Coopers Creek was greater than that of Pearson Town (the old name for Happy-Go-Lucky). No action was taken, and two months later Mrs Ellen Collins took up the challenge, enclosing an agreement signed by John Parry for the use of his house at Happy-Go-Lucky rent-free. The Department was satisfied with this solution, but the parents at Cooper Creek were unhappy.

Inspector Elkington advised that the *temporary building will answer requirements until I can determine the most appropriate position for a permanent establishment*. Two weeks later, an optimistic letter was sent to Mr A. Bell of Walhalla School Board of Advice, suggesting John Wood as a teacher. It was signed by Charles Collins and 13 others including parents from Cooper's Creek. The Board in the meantime tendered for desks and alterations to the building including removing partitions, floor repairs, repairs to linings and roof.



Two weeks later, Clara Weekes, aged 22, applied for the position of teacher. She had been senior pupil-teacher at Walhalla for 4 Years and had undergone examination for first-class *but no results as yet* and was prepared to sit for second class. After two and a half years the long-suffering parents had a furnished school which lacked a teacher. Another half-year was to elapse before the children, three years older than when the first request was made, finally received their promised free education.

Inspector Elkington recommended Mr. A. Aitken, who was appointed on the 3rd of March 1875, but a month later the residents wrote to the Walhalla School Board of Advice, stating that the house was prepared but still no teacher. Apparently, Mr Aitken was not to be found.

Mrs Anna Alexander of Aberfeldy then applied for the position on 22nd April 1875, but authorities preferred the appointment of Miss Clara Weekes, who declined in May.

On the 4th of June, Mrs Anna Alexander was appointed, but was not given much support.

She hired for self and baggage 4 horses on June 7th and 4 more on June 8th at 20 shillings each horse. Including meals, the removal expenses amounted to 11 pounds and 14 shillings. All 5 children except the youngest proceeded on foot and arrived at Happy Go Lucky before the horses for they could not proceed fast on account of the narrow tracks being in terrible condition and because of snow. By the 4th October, the Education Department had pronounced that as she could not travel alone, two horses may be allowed for but no more. She is unqualified and applied for the school. Allow 4 Pounds.

The worries continued for parents, children, teacher, and the Department. On 26 November, Mr Parker, on behalf of the Walhalla Board of Advice, was still urging that a school be built on the site closer to Cooper's Creek, where a number of children were not attending school and the population was increasing with the prospects of the copper mine. He also reported that the roof of the present building was *thoroughly out of repair, almost impossible to find a dry place for the children in wet weather*. Predictably, the inside

lining was also in a *very bad state*. The assistant inspector agreed, stating in January 1876 that *arrangements for sleeping have to be made nightly in one corner of the schoolroom, which appears to be the only spot free of wet*. And commented, “*the accommodation for the teacher and her family is of a meagre description*”.

He endorsed the purchase of a site which had already been selected. Despite the tough conditions the attendance increased and in February Mrs Alexander reported that *12 children sit on the floor daily. I require at least 2 additional desks although I scarcely know where to place them as every foot of ground in the schoolroom is crowded with children*.

The department granted one 7 feet 6 inches desk and one form 12 inches high but decreed that the teacher must give up another room to the children. The following month Charles Collins signed a letter written by his wife, stating that Mr Parry would take 20 pounds for the building; the inspector recommended a price of 30 pounds. There were more than 30 children attending on average.

In May the Walhalla board insisted that the building was unsuitable for a school but could be used as a teacher’s residence, and a new school could be built for 30 pounds. To add to the confusion, John Parry was unable to obtain the title from the Echuca solicitor; in December William Patten of Sale, acting for Mr Parry was able to produce the title.

On 19th January 1877, Mrs Alexander reported an average attendance of 48 and more desks were required as *children in class 2 have to take turns at writing, not any child in the class being able to write more than 1 copy per week*.

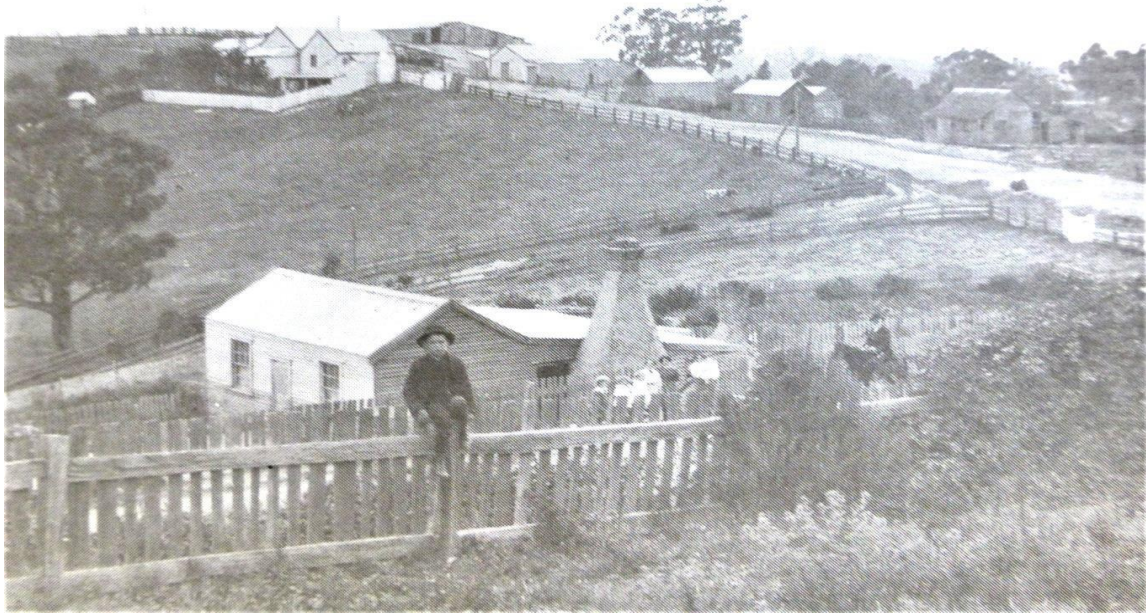
Mr Tisdall was asked to check the measurements of the schoolrooms – big room 19 feet 6 inches by 13 feet 9 inches by 7 feet 3 inches high, and the small room, downstairs 11 feet by 9 feet 6 inches. In February, an additional desk was provided, which certainly put a strain on the space.

With an average attendance of 48, it can be assumed that the enrolment would exceed 50 children of all ages from 5 to 14, quite a challenge for a teacher the Department considered unqualified, and no doubt being paid as much. By class 6 and age 14, each student was required to read and explain any book or newspaper, with dictation at that level. A similar standard of arithmetic was expected, as well as grammar and syntax, geography of the world generally, as well as all kinds of plain needlework, singing and drawing where practical. There was also military drill and gymnastics where practicable. A proscribed standard was expected at each age.



Coach Road Walhalla.

Classified Head Teachers of schools with an average attendance of 50 to 75 received annual salaries of 120 pounds (male) and 96 pounds (female). In 1875 the holidays *shall not exceed 30 days annually*. Three weeks could be taken in mid-summer or, with prior approval, two weeks, then one in mid-winter. Good Friday and Easter week were permitted, and the usual public holidays. Whit Monday, May 24th, July 1st, November 9th and November 23rd. Up to 4 additional days may be approved by the Board of Advice.



Happy-Go-Lucky township, Chas. Collins is affectionately known as the "King of the Mountains" is on horseback centre-right. Photo Walhalla Chronicle 1897.

It was at this time in late July and early August 1876 that Anna's heart was broken when her youngest daughter, **Marguerite Evangeline Alexander** contracted symptoms of Scarlatina, or Scarlet Fever. She was only seven years old. Scarlet Fever is a contagious infection that is caused by streptococcal bacteria. It is spread by contact with nasal or mouth fluids from an infected person and symptoms typically include a fever over 101 degrees and a red, sore throat. Other symptoms may include nausea, vomiting, headache, and abdominal pain. A distinctive scarlet rash appears, first on the neck and chest and then all over the body. The rash feels like sandpaper.

Back in those days, there were no antibiotics and poor little Marguerite died at Walhalla on 12th August 1876. She had been fighting this sickness for 21 days and is now buried at the Walhalla Cemetery. (Victorian Death Index Registration 10591).

In January 1878, Mrs. Alexander was pleading for a cupboard to keep records and papers properly; she also requested a master's desk. *A desk and press combined were supplied*. In June 1879, Mr Harding, Clerk of Works, reported *on passing the school I found the chimney partly blown down and the out-office partly unroofed. I got a man to repair them at a cost of 1 pound*.

By October 20th 1879, Mrs Alexander had had enough and decided to move on after four years of extreme pressure with hardly any support from the Department. Dorothy Demack, my cousin went to the Victorian State Archives in Melbourne and found the official Teacher Record for Anna Maria Alexander. The staff member she talked to told her that the Teacher Records were sometimes brutally honest, and that is borne out by Anna's record. It would be interesting to know what sort of exam it was she failed at, since all but one of the reports of her practical teaching give her at least a pass.

I would give her 100 points for trying, given the conditions of hardship which she had to endure and the

lack of support, not only materially, but also monetary by the Education Department. Also, she had to bear the traumatic and emotional pain of losing her daughter Marguerite and continue as a Headteacher, washing and cooking for her large family and teaching 48 children every day of the school week.

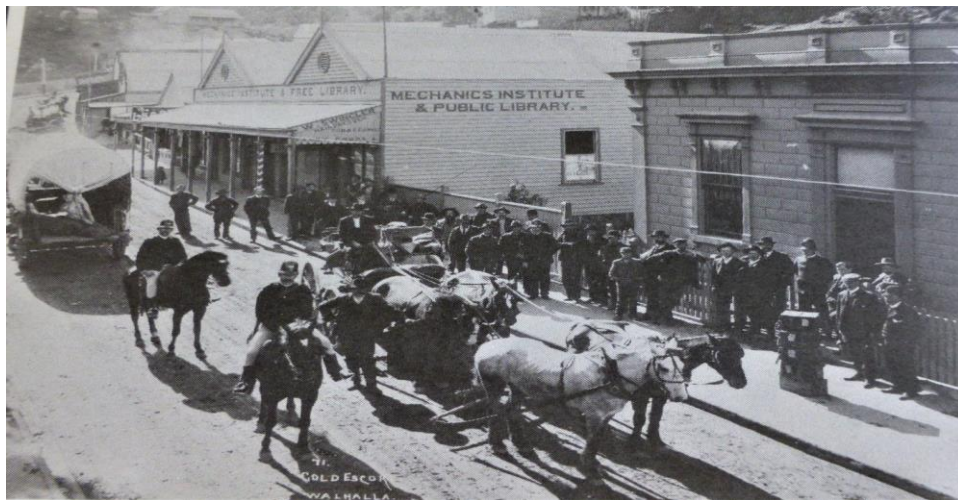
In February 1880, her successor, Mr. D. McLean, applied for incidental expenses: locks repaired, windowpanes replaced, and lining nailed up, otherwise the children would perish from cold. *I have kept a large fire every day. It costs me 5 shillings a week for wood alone. It is the coldest and dreariest place I have ever lived.*

In another letter a month later, he insisted that the allowance for firewood was quite inadequate, but the Department decreed that no special allowance could be given. On April 30th 1880, the persistent McLean pointed out *that the school is on a hill 1,100 feet above Walhalla. There is no wood on the sides of the hill, it has to be cut way down in the valleys and drawn up the hills with a sledge which costs an exorbitant sum. I, therefore, trust that the allowance made to a mountain schools be granted to me.*

In 1881, the struggle continued with leaking roofs, the chimney falling down, lack of toilets, leaking water tanks and little funding. Finally, the Walhalla Board recommended that Happy Go Lucky school should be closed.

Later Mrs A. Alexander found employment working as a Librarian at the Walhalla Mechanic's Institute and Public Library. Her three oldest daughters would meet and marry local boys from Walhalla.

Annie later moved to Melbourne and set up her own private school.



Mechanics Institute & Public Library where Anna worked for a while. Photo of the Gold escort outside the Bank of Victoria leaving Walhalla for Moe.
Photo from the Walhalla Chronicle 1897.



Main Street Walhalla 1872.

By the late 1870s, mining activity had slowed, and more Chinese continued to pour into these areas succeeding where Europeans failed. Quartz miners outnumbered alluvial miners, but before long it was all over.

Jericho township site was continuously occupied from the time of its formation in 1861 until the last of the sluicing operators departed in the 1950s. The hotel had closed in 1938 and the remnants of the township with its numerous abandoned wooden buildings were destroyed in the Victorian Black Friday bushfires of 1939.

The story goes that later in life Annie used to make a big pot of tea in the morning and drink it straight from the spout as the need arose during the day. She kept it warm by the side of the wood-fired stove. Annie wasn't noted for endearing herself to daughters-in-law. Later in life, Anna Maria Alexander lived with her daughter Mary and Harry Buchanan at 189 Riversdale Road Hawthorn until her death in 1910, aged 80.

Anna Maria Alexander's death certificate, (9228/1910-19/9/1910) stated that she had been in Victoria for 58 years (arrived c. 1852). She was buried at Box Hill Cemetery, 395 Middleborough Road (Register Number 3299, Location B - 166. Baptist Section).

Her gravestone says

Erected in Loving Memory of our Mother Anna M. Alexander, died 16th September 1910 aged 80.

A Wise and Faithful Mother.

Her sons, Charles T. Alexander died 1912 aged 49 and Arthur L. Alexander died 21st April 1917 aged 49.

Her Grandson, F.L. Alexander, killed at Messines on 7th June 1917, whose gravestone says *In Heaven, we will Part No More.*

The Gray family name has now been passed down to:

Annie Gray Alexander, Anna's daughter, born 1860.

Mary Catherine Alexander, who married Harry Buchanan and named their daughter Stella Gray Buchanan. Born 1887.

Leslie Gray Alexander, Irvinebank Qld born 1895.

Charles Gray Alexander my father, born 1900.

Lucy Ellen Cromb (Alexander) named her daughter Grace Gray Cromb, born 1901.

Leslie Gray Bunting, Bingil Bay Qld, born 1919.

Peter Gray Alexander (me) born 1950.

My son, **Levi Gray Alexander**, born 1981.

And my grandson, **Noah Gray Alexander**, born 2009.

After all my research of Anna Maria Gray born 1829, what do I think of her?

Her children erected her gravestone stating:

In Loving Memory of our Mother. A wise and faithful Mother.

The fact that her name has been passed down to 10 descendants in the last 149 years is remarkable to me. First, she arrived in Melbourne after coming from the other side of the world as a single woman carrying probably just a suitcase and mingling with the hustle and bustle of thousands flocking to the goldfields. Then marrying a Scotsman and giving birth to 6 children in 11 years and then finding yourself separated a few years later when your husband walks out of her life taking all the money with him.

Desperate, you then become a Head Mistress of a school trying to give quality education to 48 children and having no qualifications to do so, in your spare time being a caring mother, cooking, providing three meals a day and cleaning, washing, and nurturing your own children.

Let alone grieving over the death of your youngest daughter at seven years old, but you kept marching on dealing with controlling government school authorities, being underpaid and with little assistance from them.

Could I survive what Anna went through?

It's only family and friends that could hold you up, someone to help carry your burden, someone to lean on. I hope Anna did have the support she needed. To be brave, tough, and remarkably strong.

I salute you, Anna Maria Gray.

CHAPTER 13 | THE GOLDEN JUBILEE OF QUEEN VICTORIA

The fiftieth anniversary of Queen Victoria's accession on 20 June 1837 was celebrated on 20 June 1887. It was celebrated with a banquet to which 50 European kings and princes were invited.

Queen Victoria reigned for 63 years and received two great public commemorations for her longevity as ruler of the British Empire. Her Golden Jubilee, to mark the 50th anniversary of her reign, was observed in June 1887. European heads of state, as well as delegations of officials from throughout the empire, attended lavish events in Britain. The Golden Jubilee festivities were widely seen not only as a celebration of Queen Victoria but as an affirmation of Britain's place as a global power. Soldiers from throughout the British Empire marched in processions in London. And in the distant outposts of the empire celebrations were also held.

It was at this time that Anna Alexander wrote 'A Jubilee Ode'. Ten years later, Victoria's Diamond Jubilee celebrations were held to mark Victoria's 60th anniversary on the throne. The 1897 events were distinctive as they seemed to mark the end of an era, as they were the last great assemblage of European royalty.

A Golden Jubilee Ode by Mrs A. M. Alexander, Walhalla, 1887

Hail, Lady of the Stuart race, the Empress of the realm, Victoria, the victorious alike in storm or calm;
Whose reign hath shewn to Britain's laws unswerving loyalty. And sheds upon the ancient throne a
lustrous royalty.

Thy native country's hope and pride when girlhood's charms arrayed, And fearlessly the sceptre bore –
our royal British maid.

Also in later glorious years of thy illustrious life,

When children gathered around the throne of the royal British wife. Now that 'Time's silvery coronet is
on thy temples thrown,

And from the clear melodious voice, we miss a sweetness gone,

Thou art thy loyal people's trust as well as hope and pride, For fifty years' triumphant reign proclaims a
monarch tried.

The kingly Tudor, when grim Death looked in at Windsor Tower, Rallying life's forces bravely spoke her
will at that dread hour; Her pallid cheeks by efforts flushed and passion's crimson flood Bespoke the
dying Lion of the Welsh fierce fiery blood.

"No base-born varlet climbs my throne; mine is the seat of Kings,

Which broadsword won and strong hand keeps. From me no issue springs, But to my latest breath I'll
reign the Queen of Merrie England; And when that fails, but not till then, send for His Grace of
Scotland." So spoke and died that stern old Queen, whose pride it was to be part mistress of the fertile
isles washed by the Northern Sea. Now Britain's teeming millions own oceans and zones apart-
ELIZABETH might reign o'er lands, VICTORIA rules the heart. For commerce binds in brotherhood
the sons of many lands, And the People's Palace rises at her Majesty's commands; Our soldiers and our
sailors test her careful motherhood, And science hails rejoicingly, VICTORIA THE GOOD;

The patriot views, with kindling pride, the progress of the State, Where the people's representatives
assemble in debate,

Where the Great Charter's salient points their thoughtful care commands, Which fires the senate of our
own and far colonial lands. While freedom's cause is never won by dynamite or bomb, Yet burning

thought and earnest pen will win the victory soon. 'Tis true "God's mills grind slowly, yet they grind exceeding small." Working late and working early with exactness grinds He all." Then hurrah! hurrah! For Britain, whose navies sweep the seas, Whose glorious banner proudly floats upon the stormy breeze, For while mercy tempering justice adorns the British throne, The God of battles blesses those who trust in Him alone.

Britain, dear land of Auld Lang Syne, of many memories old, The hearthstone where one winter's night young love's first dream was told, The clasping hands, the fond good-night, the hallowing household prayer, Must ever to the exile's heart make other lands less fair. Then hurrah! For dear old Britain, God's blessing ever fall. On the peasant in his cottage, the noble in his hall, our churches and our colleges, and keep our memories green.

For her who wears the diadem, our loved and honoured Queen. Mason, Firth & McCutcheon Printers Melbourne.

CHAPTER 14 | DESCENDANTS OF ANNA AND CHARLES



Anna Maria Alexander (nee Gray).



Charles Booth Alexander

Anna and Charles Alexander's children got married in the following manner:

Mary Catherine Alexander married Harry Buchanan from Walhalla.

Annie Gray Alexander married Henry Witton (Publisher of the Walhalla Chronicle).

Lucy Ellen Alexander married James Forbes Cromb.

Charles Turnbull Alexander married Florence Cutten from Bingil Bay, Queensland. 1892.

Arthur Lionel Alexander married **Anna Sophia Maria Schloo** 1894 (My grandparents.)

Marguerite Evangeline Alexander died 12th August 1876, aged 7.



Annie Gray Witton with daughters Ruth, Essie, and Annie. Ruth Witton married George Madin in 1914.



Essie May Witton.



Harry and Catherine Buchannan.

Ruth Witton was born in 1889, Essie Witton in 1892, and Annie Cecil Alice in 1897. Annie senior's first-born child was a son, Henry Cooper Witton. In the book. Annie's story of saving her life during childbirth is recounted in Old Walhalla by Raymond Paull, but her son died soon afterwards.

Mary Catherine Alexander married Harry Buchanan. He worked in a grocery store in Walhalla. Their children were:

Marguerite Evangeline Buchanan B.1881.

Winifred Daphne Buchanan B.1885.

Stella Grey Buchanan B.1887.

Herbert Sydney Buchanan B.1890.

Reginald Leslie Buchanan B.1891.

Frank Leonard Buchanan B.1892.

Dorothy Mavis Buchanan B.1897.

Lucy Ellen Alexander married **James Forbes Cromb**. Married at Walhalla on 19th March 1884 (Victorian Marriage index 01025).



Lucy Ellen Cromb (nee Alexander)

Their Children were:

James Alexander Cromb, born 23 Jan 1885, Walhalla. Died 1951, East Melbourne, Victoria.

Robert Cromb, born 19 July 1886, Walhalla. Died 1886, Walhalla, Victoria.

Alexander Forbes Cromb, born 10th March 1888. Died 1890, Walhalla, Victoria.

Duncan Cromb, born 27th February 1890, Walhalla, died 1973, Elsternwick, Victoria.

Colin Forbes Cromb, born 29 Nov 1895, Walhalla. Died 1949, Rockhampton, QLD.

Allan Cromb, born 21st June 1891, Walhalla. Died 1955, Hawthorn, Victoria.

Grace Grey Cromb, born 7 October 1901, Trafalgar, died 1984, Bentleigh, Victoria.

Lily Marguerite Cromb, born 8th September 1903, Trafalgar, died 1970, Dandenong, Victoria.

Alexander Stewart Cromb, born 7th May 1907, Trafalgar, died 2002.

Lucy Isabella Anna Cromb, Born 6th June 1910, Trafalgar, died 1961, Parkville, Victoria.

James Forbes Cromb was born on September 15th, 1850 at Kinnoul Perthshire Scotland and arrived in Victoria with his Parents John and Janet Cromb (nee Forbes) in 1853. They settled at *Bonnieview* at Upper Maffra where they were among the earliest settlers of North Gippsland, James had two older brothers, John Duncan Cromb b.1846 and William Cromb, b 1848.

When the brothers were only lads, they engaged in gold mining in Walhalla from 1869. They were noted for their remarkably fine physique, all big, powerfully built men.

The three brothers were registered in the Transcript 1874 Burgess Roll in the Electoral District as Miners.

One brother, William became Hotelkeeper of the Long Tunnel Hotel 1876 to 1878 in honour of the Long Tunnel Mine which was located opposite and more than likely to attract the custom of its thirsty workers. William later entered mining management in gold mining operations.⁶

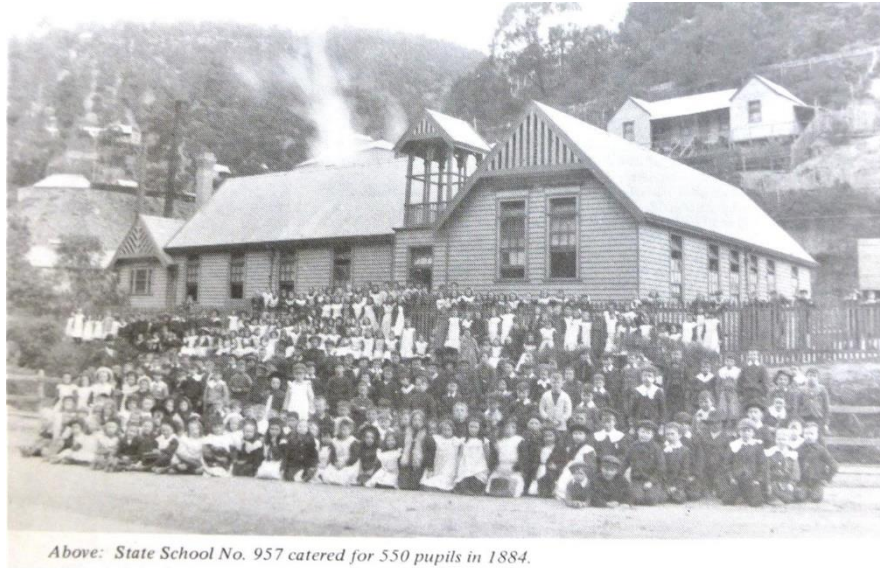


Colin Forbes Cromb in his WW1 uniform.



Grace Grey Cromb

⁶ *Walhalla Chronicle* 3/5/1912.



Walhalla State School where James and Colin Cromb attended. The school was destroyed by fire 25th April 1891. (Photo *The Walhalla Chronicle*.)



Allan and Ethel Cromb and Family: Sons Ron, Stanley, Keith, and daughter Dulcie (c. 1922)



Back L-R, 2nd Anna Sophia Maria Alexander, 4th Arthur Lionel Alexander, their sons in front L-R 1/ Arthur Crag Alexander ,2/ Fredrick Lionel Alexander, 5/ Frank Murray Alexander 6/ Charles Gray Alexander (my father) (Photo c. 1903/04).

Arthur Lionel Alexander married Anna Sophia Maria Schloo 1894 (my grandparents.)

CHAPTER 15 | CHARLES BOOTH ALEXANDER MOVES TO QUEENSLAND 1880

Charles Booth Alexander moved to the Atherton Tablelands around Irvinebank and Tolga Queensland, where he spent the next 40 years. He invested in tin and silver mines at Irvinebank in the 1880s. He bought into many mining leases with partners John Moffat, Nicholas Hardman and others. He was a partner in a major tin mine that was called the *Tornado* and was next to John Moffat's mine called the *Vulcan*.

John Moffat was an Industrial developer who became a multi-millionaire in today's money. Young Charles Turnbull Alexander also became a mine owner calling his mine *Now or Never*.

When Charles Booth Alexander and his son Charles Turnbull Alexander (aged about 18) arrived in far Northern Queensland, approx. 1880, they would have travelled by coastal steamers which serviced trade in passengers and cargo. They operated along the eastern coast of Australia as far as Port Douglas. This was the main port for the area, and then it took a month to reach the Atherton Tablelands.

The tropical north has thick jungles, covered with clingy, thorny vines. A few rough, muddy dirt roads and tracks were cut up these steep mountains until they reached the plateau. National roads and rails came 50 to 75 or more years later.



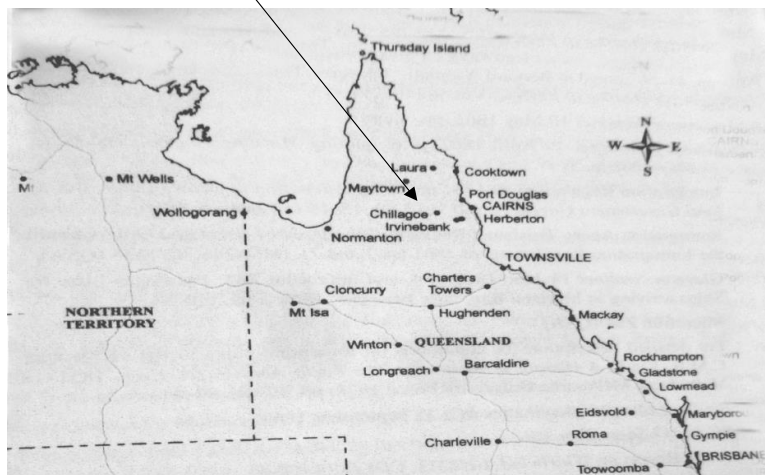
Atherton Tablelands North Queensland.

I believe the reason why Charles went to Far North Queensland from the Gippsland Goldfields of Victoria was most likely because other mining regions were starting to open there. The Palmer River goldfield, between 1873 and 1879, was the largest and best producing alluvial goldfield in Australia. It's not a stretch to say that this field was essentially responsible for the growth of places like Cooktown, Port Douglas, and Cairns.



Author, Peter Alexander visiting Irvinebank North Queensland 2017.

Some estimates place the weight of gold retrieved from this area at more than 1.3 to 1.4 million ounces, recovered from creeks and rivers. This is a figure worth several billion dollars in today's currency, however, this is probably an extremely conservative figure as a lot of gold was smuggled out, especially by Chinese so that they could evade any taxes. Also, there were other discoveries like silver and tin mining in the Atherton Tablelands 1879 and in 1887 copper, silver and tin at Chillagoe.



Part Map of the Queensland East Coast showing Herberton and Irvinebank

Charles over the next 40 years established himself as a builder, an engineer, owning a large property portfolio and part owner in several mines. He travelled back to Victoria to see his family every now and again and on one occasion instead of travelling the tropical wet jungle tracks back to Port Douglas, he decided to go overland to Normanton and catch the monthly boat, only to arrive in time to see it leaving on the tide. He had ridden a horse there, but he still missed the boat and would have had to find his way back to Atherton. The distance is roughly 700 km each way.

This story was passed down by Pop, Arthur C. Alexander, through letters by Merle Robinson.

CHAPTER 16 | JOHN MOFFAT IN HERBERTON

On the 6th June 1875, James Mulligan discovered tin ore in the Wild River near Herberton. He wrote in his journal that *there may be any quantity of it here, but what use is it at present in this wild place*. Five years later, a group of four prospectors, Jack, Newell, Brandon, and Brown, returned and searched for the same tin ore. After initially failing to recognize the significance of the black rock outcrops, they soon realized that they had discovered a major find.

A claim was made the following day and the first mining operations commenced at Herberton. Tents and bark huts were the initial structures, followed by more sturdy structures. By the end of 1880, hotels, shops, and a butcher were in place. They were perhaps mainly responsible for the discovery of tin in other areas, such as Watsonville and Irvinebank. Tin was discovered in Watsonville in approximately 1881, and prospectors moved out of Herberton and followed the ranges to what would later be known as Irvinebank.

Situated in the hills west of Herberton in a dry mountainous terrain, Gibbs Camp is a small settlement. It consisted of Jimmy Gibbs, Jim McDonald, Billy Eales, Andy Thompson, Dave Green, Jack Green, and Jack Pollard. These men were the first to discover tin in Gibbs Camp. That was around 1883. Strange as it may seem, Jack, Newell, Brown and Brandon, who had established the Great Northern Mine in Herberton was mainly responsible for bringing into the area a man named John Moffat.

They realized the importance of having a tin-dressing plant in Herberton for the treatment of their ores, so Jack and Newell, who had been in association with Moffat in the Tenterfield-Tent Hill area and in Stanthorpe, got in touch with Moffat, and the party offered him a quarter share in the Great Northern Mine, conditional on his undertaking the erection of a tin dressing plant in that locality.

Moffat agreed and had been in a partnership with Robert Love as storekeepers, initially on Stanley Street in South Brisbane. With the discovery of tin in the Stanthorpe area, they extended their operations to Stanthorpe. Jack and Newell became close friends with Moffat while they were in Stanthorpe. Moffat had also become closely associated with John Holmes Reid, a young man who was then engaged in tin mining in the Stanthorpe area. Reid's association sparked Moffat's interest in mining and smelting.

Moffat accepted the Jack and Newell party's invitation to come to Herberton and build a battery, and he arrived in Herberton late in 1880. He set about erecting a battery and building a dam, and took up residence in Herberton.

John Moffat's arrival in mid-October 1880 laid the foundation for one of the North's greatest mining empires. He quickly made an investment in the field and by November, the machinery needed to treat the ore was on its way from Port Douglas.

The first consignment of the Great Northern battery machinery was unloaded onto the Port Douglas wharf in late November 1880. The struggle to winch boiler, cams, stamps, mortar boxes and shoes onto wagons was but a prelude to the battle to surmount the Bump Road and penetrate the Atherton Tableland bog. It was fully six weeks before it arrived in Herberton in February 1881. Conditions were so bad in one spot *it took four days to bring Moffat's machine three and a half miles with forty bullocks*.

Former Hodgkinson gold miner, William Bonar, supervised the erection of the battery, comprising ten head of stamps, a boiler, and an iron chimney, all bedded in hardwood. By Christmas that year, the field

boasted a population of 300 men and 27 women. The new year began with high expectations of a great future. At the end of 1881, Herberton became the seat of local government, and today it is part of the Tablelands Regional Council.



This five head Stamp Battery is similar in pattern to the first-ever stamps (ten head) erected on the Herberton Mineral field.

John Moffat migrated to Brisbane from Scotland on board the clipper Whirlwind in 1862 when he was 21. He was born into a successful cotton milling family in the Irvine River Valley, south-west of Glasgow. While living at Herberton 1882, he made an overseas visit to his native land, and he also embraced the opportunity of investigating the tin mines in Cornwall, and the mining and smelting works in Belgium and Germany. On his return to Herberton in 1883, the chief talk was about the great tin find at Gibbs' Camp by Gibbs and his party. Moffat was interested in this, and on investigation, he negotiated for the purchase of the Great Southern Mine which was the find that had been made by Gibbs and party.

Moffat's origins were in Loudoun, an Ayrshire town in Scotland, situated on the banks of the River Irvine. He renamed the camp Irvinebank to remind him of his birthplace in Scotland. After establishing the Irvinebank Mining Company, he set about building the local infrastructure.



Herberton in 1895, just 15 years after the first settlement.

In the meantime, another Scotsman had arrived in the area, being **Charles Booth Alexander** who had been on the goldfields in Victoria for over 20 years and had considerable knowledge of building, mining, and engineering. Moffat, Charles Booth Alexander, and others collaborated to construct a new town

from nothing.

The landscape is dotted with stark reminders of mining today, but nature is reclaiming its hills. The former home of the legendary mining entrepreneur John Moffat is still called Loudoun House. It is primarily constructed from red cedar and is now a living museum that has a remarkable historical collection. The house is the oldest high-set timber and corrugated iron house in Far North Queensland and was built by **Charles Booth Alexander** with the help of his son **Charles Turnbull Alexander** in 1884. It was from this house that John Moffat controlled his vast mining empire until his retirement in 1912.



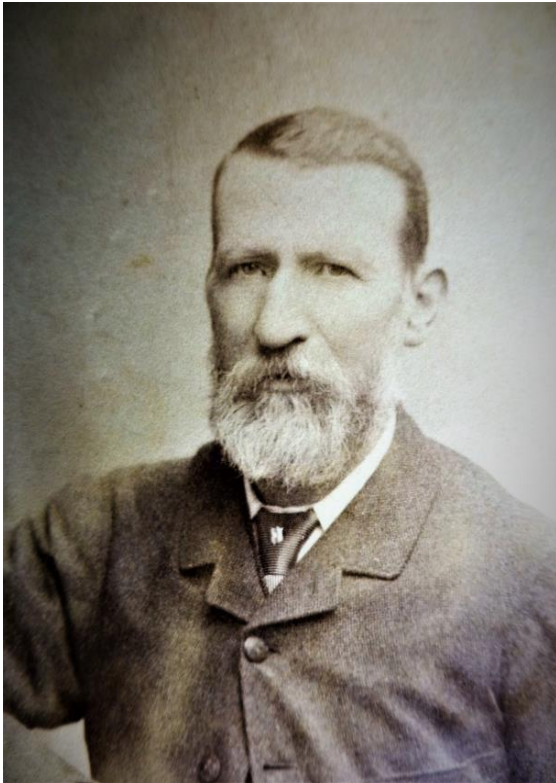
Loudoun House Irvinebank in December 1886 (Royal Historical Society of Queensland).

In the beginning, they lived in six eight-foot tents and a small hut for storage. They constructed a cedar home on eight-foot stumps by cutting and sawing timber from the proposed dam site and imported seasoned timber from the south. The structure consisted of a sitting room, two main bedrooms, a four-sided verandah, other bedrooms, and a front verandah, giving a stunning view over the mill site and dam. Cool offices, a storeroom, and an assay room were provided in the enclosed downstairs areas. Moffat planned to place flower boxes around the verandah and to plant citrus trees in the garden.

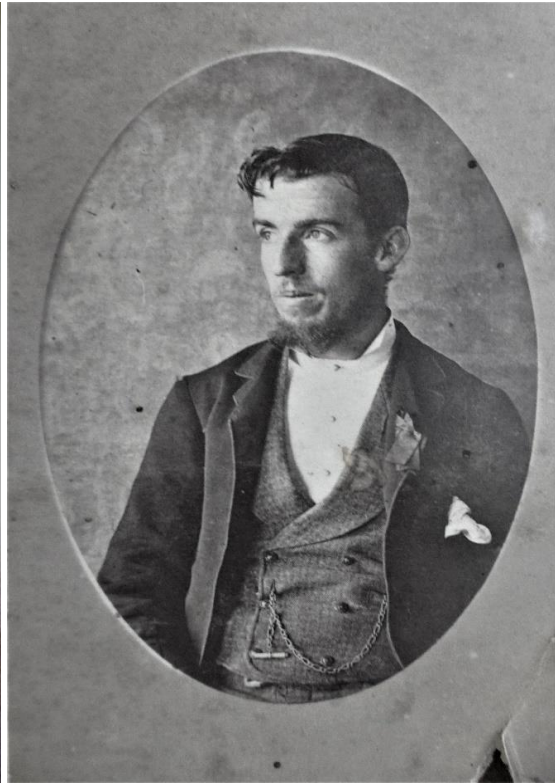
When Moffat acquired the Great Southern Mine, he immediately relocated from Herberton to Irvinebank, which was probably the greatest thing that could have happened to the town. What was Herberton's loss was Irvinebank's gain. Immediately upon arriving in Irvinebank, Moffat began erection of a tin battery and construction of a dam. The two creeks which form the basis of the dam at Irvinebank were known as Gibbs Creek and McDonald Creek, after the earliest prospectors. The battery was erected on the Gibbs Creek frontage, and the dam was constructed just below the junction of these two creeks and embraced an area, when full, of about 12 - 13 acres of water, with depths varying from about 15 feet to about 2 to 3 feet.

Charles Booth Alexander became the Construction Engineer overseeing all of Moffat's major works. By November 1885, the battery was first constructed as a five-head stamp mill, and with the available crushing facilities, many prospectors came to the area. Many more mines were found in the vicinity, and Moffat found it necessary to continuously add more to the dressing plant. It went from five head to ten head, ten to fifteen head, from fifteen head to twenty head, from twenty head to thirty head, from thirty

head to forty head of stampers with the necessary dressing appliances. He also built a Huntingdon Ball Mill to grind the more brittle ores, such as those from the Governor Norman Mine. So, the crushing capacity at the Irvinebank mill became very considerable.



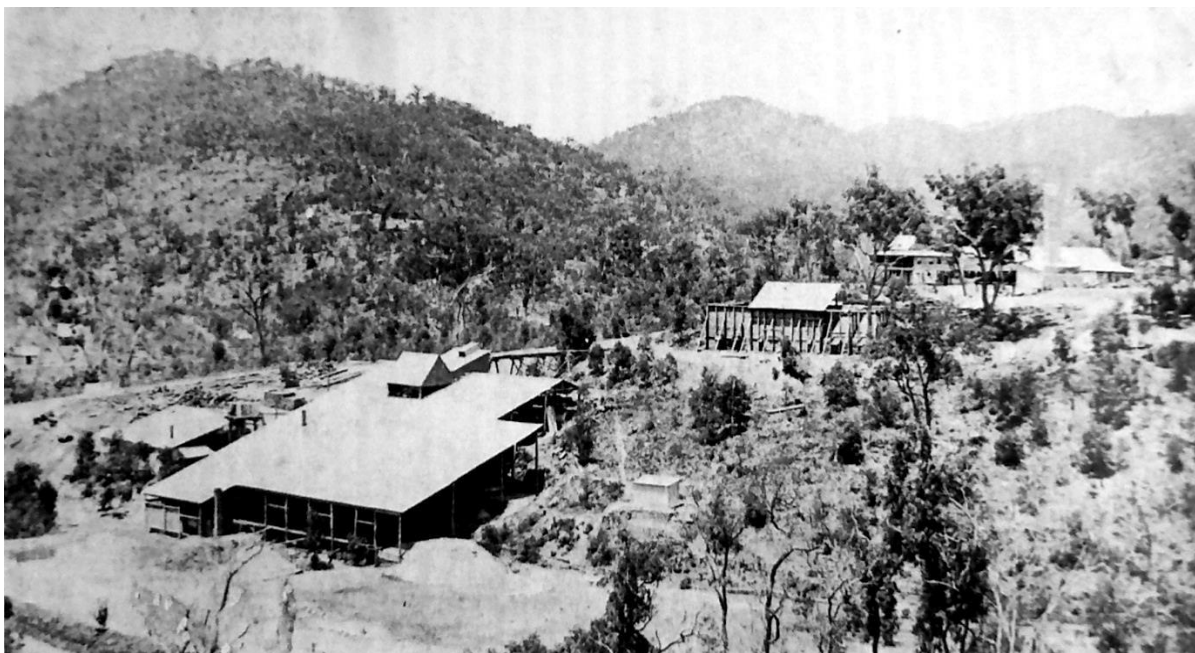
Charles Booth Alexander



Charles Turnbull Alexander



John Moffat & Company's dam in 1884 with Loudoun House at the left and the Battery under Construction (Royal Historical Society of Queensland.)



Loudoun Battery with ore hoppers (Royal historical Society of Qld.)

Charles Booth Alexander was the earliest manager of the battery starting in 1885.

With the crushing facilities available, it meant more prospectors entered the area and mines continued to be opened throughout the whole area including Southern, Red King, White King, Tyrconnell, Garabaldi, Comet, Tornado, Valetta and many more.

Hard-won wealth brought conflicts and responsibilities. As his capital and influence grew, Moffat continued to promote mines, speculate, and aggressively defend his interests. Through his interconnected enterprises, the local town population reaped a bounty of security and wages. Moffat's skill was evident in the combination of the town's social development and his own financial success.

The two years of 1889 and 1890 were a hiatus between spectacular promotions of the Montalbion and Glen Linedale mines on the British markets and the control of the wondrously productive *Volcano* tin mine at Irvinebank. Now that he was personally wealthy after the cash deals for the Montalbion and Glen Linedale mines, Moffat planned to transfer his management role to Sydney and to promote the Chillagoe mines as a public company. Ownership of the *Volcano* mine was important in his strategy because it provided a foundation on which his whole business could operate.

Sensing the failure of the Chillagoe promotion, he decided to concentrate on obtaining control of Irvinebank's new tin mine, the *Volcano*, discovered in September 1888 by a party of Italian miners and woodcutters. The name *Volcano* soon was altered to *Vulcan*, indicating its surface form, and several crushings of its green chloride ore mixture assayed 20 per cent at Loudoun mill.

In contrast, throughout 1889, production from Moffat's Irvinebank mines dwindled while tin prices were low and the company was installing winding machinery. After the Loudoun mill closed in the 1889 wet season, Moffat took a share in the neighbouring *Tornado* lode with Nicholas Hardman and **Charles Booth Alexander**, exploring on the *Volcan* boundary.

CHAPTER 17 | THE VULCAN MINE

The Italians were tunnelling and sinking, and by October 1890 they had discovered an undefined lode seventy feet below their shaft brace. The fluctuating fortunes of the *Vulcan* during those first few years resulted from the sparring between the claim holders and Moffat.

Moffat quickly realized the amazing richness of the blow, even though the Italians naturally skirted around the lode, providing poorer crushings, and cultivating the secrecy pervading the Irvinebank tin industry. The Italians were aware of Moffat's high crushing charges and feared he would take over the mine.

As they sank the shaft, the ore got richer, and the lode became bigger. They eventually achieved crushing of around 100 tons, from which they recovered about 4,000 pounds. The *Vulcan* Mine would become the greatest mine of all time.

Several of the residents of Irvinebank who were engaged mostly in mining and working around the mill had realized the importance of the Italians' find and they bought them out for £2,000 pounds. A syndicate of twenty-two was formed, putting in 100 pounds each, which enabled them to buy the mine. They immediately began working on it.

From 1890 to 1921, the production of tin concentrates from the *Vulcan* mine totaled between 12,000 and 13,000 tons. This, at present-day prices, would be worth about \$26 million. It was really the *Vulcan* that was the mainstay of Irvinebank throughout the years and from 1896 to 1915 it kept thirty head stampers going continuously.

Moffat, at the same time, went into the business of tin purchasing and the purchasing of other metals. A tin smelter was built at Irvinebank in the early nineties for the treatment of the concentrates from the battery and of the alluvial deposits in the area, and in 1904 a second smelter was commissioned to enable the whole of the ores treated to be dealt with at the smelters in Irvinebank. The smelters therefore necessitated the use of very considerable quantities of firewood, and many Italians were involved in the supply of firewood, both to the battery and to the smelters. They were the charcoal burners and had considerable experience in their homeland in the art of making charcoal. Very large quantities of it were required for the smelter and for the blacksmithing works. Apparently, the crushing capacity at Irvinebank mill was quite considerable. Smelters were also built for the treatment of the concentrates from the battery and of the alluvial deposits in the area.

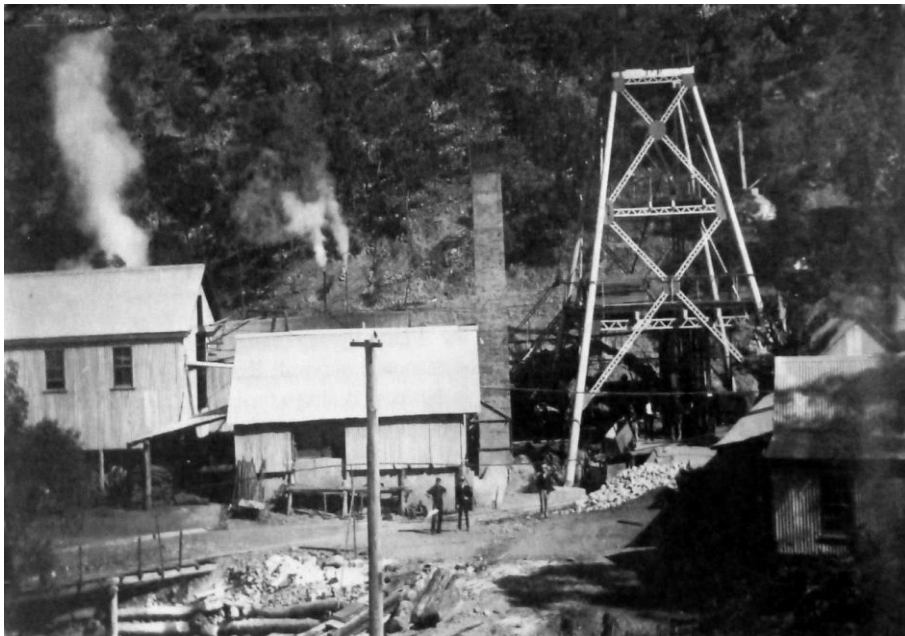
Moffat's investment in the region drew others to Irvinebank and the town flourished. By 1906 the town was at its peak with more than 3,000 residents.

The *Vulcan* mine had very hard chloride ore, which took a lot of crushing, but the results were well worth it. Moffat himself had not been a large shareholder in the original *Vulcan* syndicate, but over the years he had acquired a majority stake as shares became available, and by about 1906 he owned about two-thirds of the shares in the mine.

The company, known as the *Vulcan Tin Mining Co. No Liability* prospered right from the start, and while they did not increase their capital, they extended the number of shares, and up to about 1906 there were 44,000 shares £1 each. In 1906 the Directors decided to *bread up* the shares and to increase the number to 264,000. The monthly dividend for this was about £3,300 of which John Moffat's share was approximately £2,200.

It will be generally accepted that the *Vulcan* Mine was largely responsible for the expansion of mining in North Queensland, which enabled Moffat to continue. There were productive mines not only in Irvinebank but in the whole of the district adjacent thereto, which extended as far as Chillagoe, Mt. Garnet, Mt. Molloy, Mt Carbine, Wolfram Camp and Koorboora.

In 1906, the directors of the *Vulcan* Mine were Jim Brodie (Chairman of Directors), George Bradbury, Jack Donaldson, Joe Mitchell, and Bobby Wyatt. The secretary was Jim Tunnie and the manager was Syd Sheppard. The first manager of the *Vulcan* Mine, after the acquisition of the mine from the Italians by the syndicate, was Tom Swan. He was there for a few years and then he was followed by Denny Lucey. At the time of the boom in Mt. Garnet, in the latter part of the last century, Denny Lucey resigned and engaged in hotelkeeping in the Mt. Garnet district. He was followed by Syd Sheppard, who had been a miner in the mine for some years at that time and who proved to be the most successful of the managers that the *Vulcan* Company ever had. The *Vulcan* Mine started from the surface and was sunk to a depth of 1,440 feet. It was the deepest tin mine in Australia. The levels were 100 feet, 200, 350, 450, 600, 750, 900, 1050, 1220 and the bottom of the shaft. Later a first-class winding plant was installed.



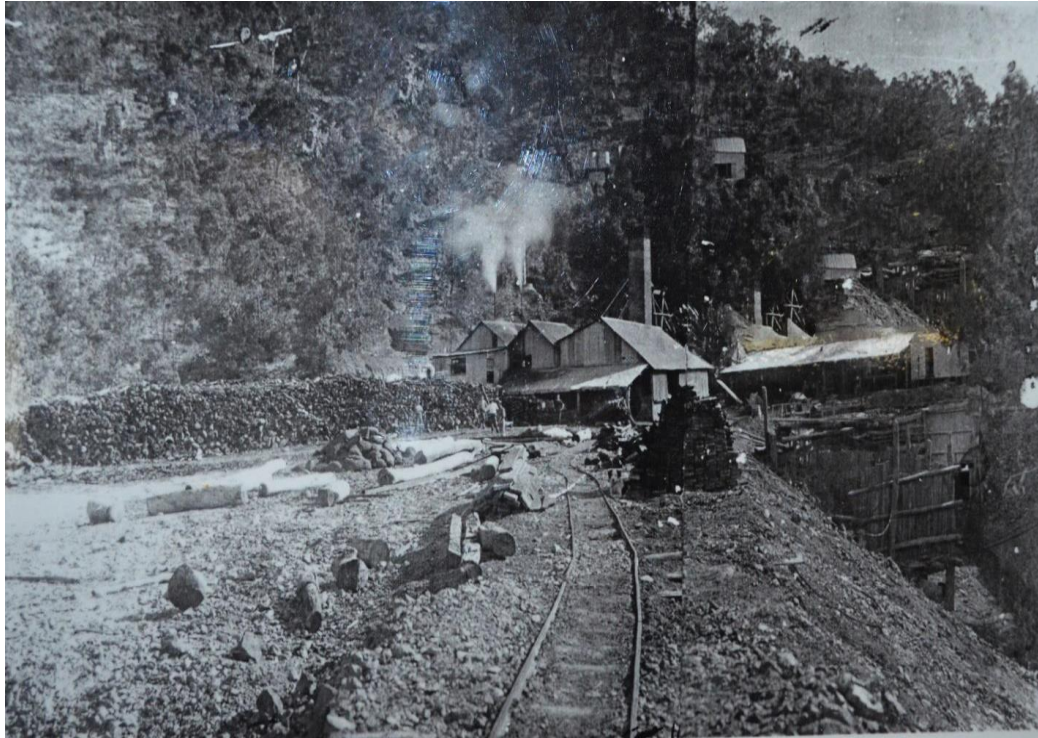
Vulcan mine headframe, boiler house, workshop & chimney 1907 (Royal Historical Society of Queensland.)



Vulcan Mine.

CHAPTER 18 | THE IRVINEBANK TRAMWAY

Efficient railway transport was essential for operating the Irvinebank smelters. Transport by horse and mule teams became more and more of a drain on the Irvinebank Mining Company as Loudoun mill consumed 100 tons of firewood a day at its peak. The firewood was mainly cut and hauled by Italians.



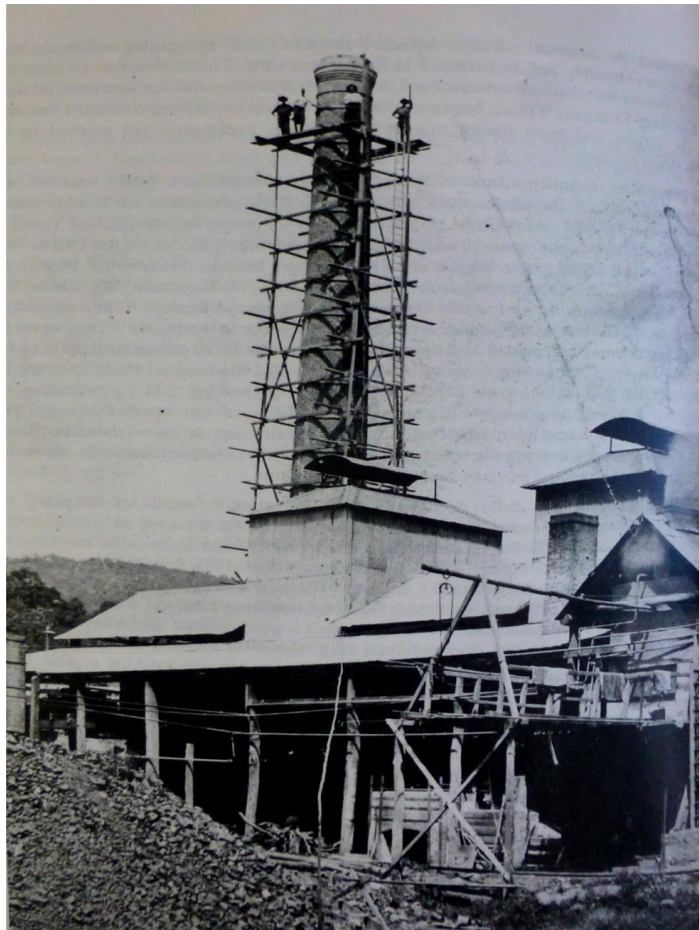
Irvinebank Tramway.

The fuel shortages in Irvinebank were becoming considerable in 1905, and nearly all available timber within a few miles of the town had been exhausted. John Moffat realized that to maintain the heavy supplies for the boilers at the battery and the furnaces at the smelter, he must arrange another means of transport. He decided to build a two-foot-wide tramway which would eventually connect to the Stannary Hills tramway. This tramway was constructed in Boonmoo in 1901 and it was agreed to connect at a point known as the Junction, about 14 miles from Irvinebank.

Because of the tramway being built, woodcutters were able to go out further and cart the wood to the tramway and then transport it by wood trucks to the batteries and the smelters. The tramway construction commenced in August 1906 and the tram locomotives were running into Irvinebank in March 1907. John Moffat had a very efficient team of carpenters at the time and the whole of the rolling stock including the passenger carriage was constructed in the workshops, apart from the bogies which were imported. The tramway was also the most cost-effective method for hauling ore from the smaller mines to the battery and smelters. Soon after, the company built goods wagons and passenger carriages for the public.



“Baby” crossing over Gibbs Creek Bridge 1908.



Irvinebank Smelting Works 1904(John Oxley Library. Negative No.32827.

Moffat’s investment in the tramway of £35,000 promoted Irvinebank’s reputation as the centre of Australia’s largest tin battery and smelter. The company had two locomotives on the line, a Koppel of 19 tons named *Betty* after Moffat’s daughter and a Krauss of 7 ½ tons named *Baby*. The tramway brought relief to Irvinebank Mining Company.

More information on the Irvinebank tramway can be sourced in the book John Moffat of Irvinebank by Ruth S. Kerr.



Old John Locomotive No3 Irvinebank railway station and goods shed (Isabel Debenham Collection, Cains Historical Society)



Stannary Hills Mines & Tramway Co. Ltd. train at Boonmoo Junction of the Stannary Hills & Irvinebank tramway (John Oxley Library Negative No.13106).



The Tornado Mine.

CHAPTER 19 | THE TORNADO MINE

The *Tornado*, a five-acre claim No 98 was taken up by William Eales, James Green, John Pollard, Finlay McLean, James McDonald, James Gibbs, Andrew Thomson, and John Donoghue on 9th March 1883 (MWO 12B/15, QSA). In October 1883, the Glen Smelting Company acquired it. The mine operated intermittently in the company's mining program, as it was plagued with boundary disputes.

On 28 May 1887, Moffat applied for a mineral lease, *Tornado* No1. North. (HA 21 June 1889). **On 9th April 1890**, Moffat, Nicholas Hardman and **Charles Booth Alexander** applied for a 20 Acre *Tornado* Lease. After determination of boundaries by the Warden with the agreement of the applicants and one objecting neighbour, Michael Foley, the lease was granted (HA.11th April 1890 and 18th April 1890).

It was totally overshadowed by the success of the *Vulcan* and Moffat lost interest in it as he became embroiled in the *Vulcan* takeover. Miners had hoped that the *Vulcan* lode would reach the *Tornado* lease. Hardman and his party tried to sink on the *Vulcan* boundary in 1890, as did the Irvinebank mining company in 1897. The *Tornado* Mine survived the Depression, producing well in the next boom in 1902, but the testing of deep ground failed in 1903 as the ore body disappeared below 368 feet. Considerable driving was done at 500 feet without cutting into any mineral belt.

In 1906, Sydney Sheppard was the mine manager of the *Vulcan* with boundaries abutting the *Tornado* Mine. It was during his period of management that the *Vulcan* reached its highest peak of production. Arthur Sheppard, his brother, served as the Underground Manager as well. Arthur Sheppard's chief recreation in life was prospecting and he engaged in it almost every weekend. It was during this period when he was the Underground Manager of the *Vulcan* that he found a trace of tin on the *Tornado* Lease. The *Tornado* Lease, by the same token, was owned by John Moffat, being a seven-twelfths partner and Charles Booth Alexander being a five-twelfths owner. They were joint owners of many leases in the Northern tin fields.

This lease, that Arthur Sheppard opened in his spare time, began to open out a bit, and he told his brother Syd about it. Syd got six months tribute, just by word of mouth, from Moffat and Alexander. This small outcrop, with a bit of work on it, became greatly enlarged, and the Sheppard brothers were naturally anxious to make the most of the thing during their six-month tribute. Miners were recruited, and up to 15 men worked a couple of shifts to extract all they could, even on Sundays. This irritated the owners of the place, as they felt they were not being treated entirely fairly in the matter, and it resulted in very large litigation. It is cited in the courts today as the **Tornado Litigation case, 1907-1909**.

The litigation that ensued in respect of the *Tornado* was unfortunately responsible for creating a rather difficult atmosphere between the owners (the tributers) and the *Vulcan* directors, who were all mostly employed by John Moffat anyway, and it had an adverse effect on the *Vulcan* Mine, without a doubt. The feelings got so great that eventually, Syd Sheppard left the management of the *Vulcan* Mine, and he was doubtless the best that the *Vulcan* Mine ever engaged as manager. Production of the *Vulcan* Mine declined after Syd Sheppard's departure. Syd Sheppard was followed by Dick Rolfe. Dick was copper miner, who knew very little about tin. He was a capable enough miner but, as I say, anyone who has worked in tin mines knows that tin is a tricky metal, and Dick Rolfe never succeeded in getting anything like the results in the *Vulcan* Mine that Syd Sheppard had.

CHAPTER 20 | TORNADO COURT CASE

A part extract from the report on proceedings⁷ at Wardens Court Herberton on 14th May 1907 provides some insights to the case. **Charles Booth Alexander** on oath, states:

I live at Irvinebank and am a mine owner. I am part-owner of the Tornado lease. I know the two defendants Arthur and Sydney Sheppard. I remember seeing Arthur about the end of November 1906 or early December. He came to me at Irvinebank and asked me if the Tornado and Vulcan Extended belonged to me or to the company. I told him the Company, referring to Mr Moffat and myself. He asked me if I would let a tribute. I said it depends where it is. If it is any part of the old workings, I would not let it. He told me it was not of the old workings at all. It was a small leader he found right on top of the hill above Guerin's shaft. He asked what tribute I would let it for. I said if it is good you can pay me for it. He asked me what time I would give him. I said I will give you no time at all, you will have to go and see Mr Moffat, that I could not let the whole myself. He told me that he had gone up to see Mr Moffat but that he did not see him. He said he would go and see Mr Moffat. I did not tell him I would take any terms Mr Moffat asked. He did not come back to see me.

I saw him sometime after at the same place, at Jack and Newell's corner at the later end of February. In the meantime, I saw him and asked him how he was getting along, and he said he was not doing much. At the end of February, he asked me if I would extend the time. I said, "You have got no time at all," He never told me till the end of February that he interviewed Mr Moffat. He asked me if 5 per cent would do and I said "No", not on 10 per cent stone. He then left. I next saw him about 3 weeks ago. I have heard something about the Tornado mine and on the 15th March, I went up to the mine and to the shaft being worked. I saw Charles King there and spoke to him and asked him if there was a shaft further along the ridge and he said no. I said there must be. I said where is the tribute shaft? And pointed to the only shaft he knew.

I asked him how many men working in both shafts and he said 7 men. The following day I saw Sydney Sheppard and Mr Moffat. Sheppard came to my home. I said to Sheppard, Mr Moffat told me he would let a fresh tribute if we agreed. There was to be a fresh agreement. I proposed to take one-third of the total output of the mine. Myself and the two Sheppards were to take a tribute and I was to forgo one-twelfth and take four twelfths, giving the two Sheppards eight twelfths. Sheppard said he would do nothing until he saw his brother.

Afterwards, he said he would not alter the original tribute. I told Sydney Sheppard that I wanted a higher tribute than I had. I never agreed to any percentage of any kind to anybody. I said nothing to Sydney Sheppard about the working of the mine. I told Sydney Sheppard that I wanted more percentage than Mr Moffat was getting for his share. I then put the matter in Mr Ringrow's hands (Solicitors).

After that, I met Sydney Sheppard in the street in Herberton. He said he was putting a shaft 6 ft. x 7 ft. He said he did not care for me, you will have to go for Mr Moffat. I said I was going for him. He gave no reason for saying I would have to go for Moffat.

That's how it all started.

⁷ Northern Miner (Charters Towers Queensland) Monday 27th May 1907, Page 7

The court action started at Wardens Court Herberton in May 1907, then went to the Supreme court of Queensland with appeals and cross-appeals and ending up in the High Court of Australia 1909 and can be downloaded from the internet Moffit V Sheppard HCA22;(1909) 9 CLR 265 (29th April 1909).

Not only was this court case causing problems for Moffat and Alexander, but it was during this time of great prosperity that there came to Irvinebank two brothers, Percy, and Ted Theodore. Up until this time, there were no unions in the area. After they were employed at the *Vulcan* mine, they then engaged in organizing the Australian Workers Association (Union) and before long had quite a large following. Within 12 months of their arrival in Irvinebank, they had all the men very 'union conscious'.

Ted Theodore, who was now the organizer of the Amalgamated Worker's Association met Moffat with his first log of claims for the men but was told to *go away and be a sensible fellow*.

As a result, in 1909 a strike over pay shut down many mines for four months and had a crippling effect upon Irvinebank and many others of the district mines and works. The *Vulcan* mine filled up with water and it took a considerable time before it could be put into operation again, which was costly.

Even though the Sheppard brothers won in the Herberton Mining Warden's Court, the litigation lasted for two years, and Moffat's tenacity demoralized and bankrupted them. The district court reversed the lower court's decision. The Full Court of the Supreme Court of Queensland varied it, and the High Court of Australia restored the District Court decision, ordering the Sheppards to pay costs.



John Moffat with his Wife Margaret 1912. (Isabel Debenham Collection, Cairns Historical Society).

John Moffat.

John Moffat (1841-1918) Legacy

Moffat was regarded as a generous and God-fearing individual who experienced fluctuating fortunes before retiring to Sydney in 1912. The *Vulcan* strike in the year 1909 which was followed a few years afterwards by the outbreak of the 1914-1918 World War both had a disastrous effect on the whole of the operations of the Irvinebank Mining Company. His Irvinebank Mining Company was eventually sold to the Queensland State Government in 1919.

Over the course of thirty years, Moffat built an empire that engaged in numerous tin, silver, copper, wolfram, timber, and sugar ventures that reached as far west as Cloncurry. Along the way, his ventures were directly responsible for the development of thirty-four towns. Those who gained the most from the railways that he constructed or influenced parliamentarians to construct are still alive to this day.

These include Mareeba, Atherton, and Ravenshoe. These towns were not solely dependent on mining. At the peak of his commercial success, he became the equivalent of a modern-era multimillionaire.



Loudoun House today that Charles Booth Alexander built 1884.

Loudoun House was made a museum-reserve and trusted to the people of Irvinebank. It is listed on the Queensland Heritage Register and the Australian Heritage Register of the National Estate. It is now managed by the Irvinebank School of Arts & Progress Association and is a non-profit organisation.

Irvinebank offers the visitor a glimpse of a village which was once the centre of a vast mining empire stretching across North Queensland and beyond. Other sites of interest are the School of Arts Hall, built in 1900, and Queensland National Bank, built in 1905. Tramway station, part of the Loudoun Mill complex, was a small two-foot gauge tramway that ran from Irvinebank to Stannary Hills and then to Boonmoo on the Mareeba/Chillagoe line. Still standing are the *Vulcan* Mine Headframe, Police Station, and Court House. Loudoun Mill, Pioneer Cemetery, Post & Telegraph Office, Old Mill Manager's House, Great southern Cottage, Freethinker Cottage and Brian's Shed.

CHAPTER 21 | CHARLES TURNBULL & FLORENCE VIOLET ALEXANDER

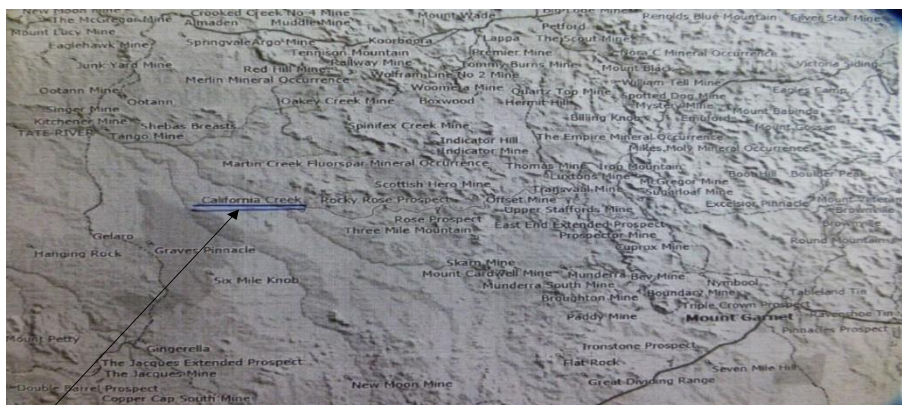
Charles' Father: Charles Booth Alexander, Mother Anna Maria Gray.

Born 31st March 1863, Jericho Goldfields Victoria. (Vic. Births Reg. no.8444).

A newspaper article tells us that Charles and his son who was 18 years old, arrived in Herberton in 1880. Charles helped his father with the building of many construction works in Herberton and Irvinebank. Charles Turnbull Alexander was, amongst other things, an underground boss at the *Vulcan Mine* in its early days and mine manager of the *Tornado* and various other mines in the district. He owned several interests in mines including the *Now or Never Mine* at various times.

He was 28 years old when he married Florence Violet Cutten on 8th April 1891 at California Creek.

Florence was born in London, England, 10th December 1862. Her parents were Frederick Cutten and Margaret Holzkamp.



California Creek. This map shows the extent of minefields in Northern Queensland in the 1890s.

Their children were all born at Irvinebank and went to school there as well:

Charles Frederick Alexander, born 15th February 1892.

Herbert Kenneth Alexander, born 22nd May 1894.

Leslie Gray Alexander, born 23rd August 1895.

Margaret Edith Alexander, born 8th July 1898.

Sidney Arthur Eric Alexander, born 9th September 1904.

Alick Leonard Alexander, born 3rd May 1911.

They went on to marry the following partners:

Charles Frederick Alexander married Gertrude Goodwin on 4th February 1934.

Herbert Kenneth Alexander (Ken) married Mary Helena Callaghan on 2nd January 1958.

Leslie Gray Alexander married Eileen Gordon in 1957.

Margaret Edith Alexander married Jack Bunting on 10th February 1919.

Sidney Arthur Eric (Eric) Alexander married Norma Miriam Taylor on 14th January 1950.

Alick Leonard Alexander married a local Clump Point girl, Florence Ellen Anderson in 1935.

Florence Ellen Anderson was born in 1919, and died in 2000 at Ashgrove, aged 81.



Author at the gravesite in 2017, Irvinebank Cemetery.

At the age of 49, Charles Turnbull Alexander passed away at Irvinebank on November 17th, 1912. He died of miner's phthisis. (Queensland Deaths Registration 1912/001803). Charles' wife, Florence Violet Alexander died at Tully on 20th November 1952, aged 90. (Queensland Deaths Registration 1952/004630).

CHAPTER 22 | OBITUARIES

There is further news of the offspring of Florence and Charles Alexander. Their first son, Charles Frederick Alexander had an obituary published⁸ which provides some useful insights. Florence Alexander and her family returned to the Cutten family homestead, *Bicton*, in Bingil Bay in 1913 after the death of her husband.

Death of Mr C. F. Alexander (Born Irvinebank, 15/2/1892.)

A link in an early pioneering family of North Queensland was broken when Mr Charles Frederick Alexander passed away in Omeo Victoria on July 2, 1963.

He was the eldest son of the late Mr & Mrs Charles Turnbull Alexander, old identities of Irvinebank. The deceased was born in Irvinebank in 1892 and received his schooling at the state school there. Upon finishing school, he took up mining, the occupation of his father and worked in many good shows of that time, including the Right Bower, White King and Tornado Extended, of which his father was manager for Alexander & Moffatt Company.

At the time of the Irvinebank and Stannary Hills strike about 1908, the deceased and his father went to Koorboora and opened up a fabulously rich tin mine, which they named the Now or Never, where that mine was floated into a local company. The deceased returned to Irvinebank and was joined by his younger brother Leslie Gray Alexander, and they opened up several shows on the Tornado Hill and elsewhere.

Upon the death of his father in 1912, Mr. Alexander, together with the other members of the family, left Irvinebank and bought land from his uncles, the well-known Cutten Brothers of Bicton, Bingil Bay. His mother was a member of the early pioneering family, who took up and developed that area in 1882. Deceased entered the banana industry, the principal markets then being Melbourne and Adelaide, but with the advent of the 1914-18 World War, the withdrawal of shipping from the coastal trade meant the finish of that industry for the time being.

Deceased married Gertrude Goodwin a twin daughter of the late Mr & Mrs Thomas Goodwin being a well-known mining identity of Gympie in its heyday. Deceased took up timber cutting for a time and then returned to mining in Koorboora, where with partners, he worked the Waratah tin mine at that centre. He also worked Wolfram on Bamford Hill, to only mention a few.

After following various occupations around the mining fields, including Chillagoe, deceased returned to the Innisfail and Tully districts, doing contract work, filling and clearing roads and building bridges for the Shire council. Deceased did a considerable amount of scrub clearing in the Feluga and Midgenoo area for cane farmers, and also felled with his brothers the first mile of mill tramline up the Bulgar Banyan.

The deceased together with his wife and young family, returned to Bingil Bay, where they built and opened up a guest house, which will be remembered for its wonderful service. Upon the death of his wife in the early 1930's, Mr Alexander closed the guest house and followed banana growing, and he could claim to have been the pioneer settler who opened up the big scrub at Clump Point, for at that time there were only two active producers in that area.

⁸ North Coast Register, July 1963, Death of Mr C. F. Alexander (Born Irvinebank, 15/2/1892.)

Deceased and his brothers built the first road around the foreshore from Bingil Bay, to give access to the Clump Point area by road and also was the first man to drive a motor vehicle around that foreshore, there being only a rough bridle track before.

The deceased also followed other occupations including owner truck driver and was employed for a number of years by the P.E.I and Main Roads in the Johnstone and Cardwell Shires.

Upon the death of his mother, Florence Alexander, the last member of the original Cutten pioneering family, the deceased returned to the mining fields for a brief period and then spent the last eight or ten years with his son in Mackay and married daughter in Victoria.

Deceased was of a retiring disposition and had a host of friends scattered throughout the north, who will regret his passing. Deceased leaves one son Fred of Mackay and one daughter Muriel (Mrs Carroll) of Brookville via Swifts Creek, Victoria. Also a sister Margaret (Mrs J. Bunting, Charters Towers) and four brothers. Ken (Atherton), Les (Charters Towers), Eric (Cairns), and Alick (Brisbane) to mourn his passing.

Another obituary is that of Margaret Bunting (nee Margaret Edith Alexander) which adds something to the picture of the Bingil Bay branch of the Alexander family.

North Loses a Link with the Past.

Another link in the chain of two North Queensland early pioneer families, covering a period of 100 years was broken last month with the death of Margaret Edith Bunting (nee Alexander) aged 84.

She was born at Irvinebank, the only daughter of the late Charles Turnbull Alexander on July 8th 1898. Her Grandfather Charles Booth Alexander came to Herberton in 1880 as John Moffat's construction engineer in the early days of Herberton. When Mr Moffat extended his interests to Irvinebank in 1881, Charles Booth Alexander was the construction engineer of the first tin crushing battery, dam and the John Moffat Home at Irvinebank.

His son Charles Turnbull Alexander came up from Walhalla in Victoria when he was 18 years old and helped his father with the erection of the first treatment plant in 1881. The mother of Mrs Margaret Bunting was the third daughter of the late Fred and Margaret Cutten who came as pioneer settlers with their sons the Cutten Brothers who established the Bicton Estate at Bingil Bay in the Mission Beach Area Far North Queensland.

Florence Violet Cutten found the early pioneering days at Bicton rather quiet for a young girl and took a position as companion and governess to the Blackmore family. Mr Blackmore was one of the early engineers at one of the sugar mills near Ingham in the days when Kanaka labour was used in the sugar industry. After some time with the Blackmore family, Florence Cutten took a similar position at Return Creek at Coolgarra, as companion and governess to the Charles Denford family.

The journey in those days was made to Port Douglas by steamer, then by Cobb & Co coach to Herberton and then on to Coolgarra. The year was 1885 and after 12 months with the Denford family, Florence then took up the same position with the John Clark family at Lornsleigh, a cattle station property in the Charters Towers district. The journey to Lornsleigh involved a train ride to Ravenswood, then a horse ride to the cattle station.

After 12 months, the Denford family asked her back as companion and governess at California

Creek near the Irvinebank.

*It was at California Creek that she met and married **Charles Turnbull Alexander**. The wedding was at the Denford Residence on 8th April 1891. Conducted by Gilbert White from the Holy Trinity Church Herberton. Charles Turnbull Alexander and Florence Violet Cutten were both 28 years old. Those present as witnesses were Charles Booth Alexander, machine engineer, and Charles Denford.*

They made their home in Irvinebank and six children were born in the Alexander family and Margaret Edith Alexander was the only girl. Charles Turnbull Alexander was, amongst other things, an underground boss at the Vulcan Mine in its early days and mine manager of the Tornado and various other mines in the district. He owned several including the Now or Never Mine at various times. But on November 17th 1912 Charles died of miners' phthisis and was buried at Irvinebank Cemetery.

In 1913 Florence left Irvinebank with her children and returned back to Bicton at Bingil Bay. After the 1918 cyclone, the family moved to Townsville, and later in 1918, Margaret Edith Alexander married Mr Jack Bunting, who, with his father, were in the timber logging industry, particularly in the Tully Hull River area.

After living a few years in Townsville where three of the family were born, the Bunting family returned to the Banyan area and was engaged in the logging timber business. The rest of the family were born at Feluga.

During the second world war, when some of the residents of North Queensland were evacuated, the Bunting family went to Charters Towers in about 1938 and resided there permanently. Jack Bunting died in Charters Towers in November 1970. Margaret Bunting leaves a grown family of four sons and two Daughters.



Leslie Gray Alexander with his sister Margaret Edith Alexander in 1917.

Les Alexander.

Both born and schooled at Irvinebank.

More information on the Bingil Bay branch of the Alexander family is available in *Bicton: The Cuttens of Clump Point* by Ken Gray, also available on mbhs.com.au.

CHAPTER 23 | QUEENSLAND GOVERNMENT GAZETTE TRANSCRIPTIONS

In 1887, Charles Booth Alexander was granted a licence to cut firewood timber costing 10 shillings.

In 1890, Charles B Alexander was appointed to be a member of the Board of Examiners for Candidates for Engine Driving. George Edward Davies was taught engine driving while working in the *Vulcan* mine. He was later employed by Charles B Alexander in the *Tornado* mine as an engine driver.

Queensland Crown Land Sales Transcriptions, Land Purchased.

1884 Charles B Alexander, 13 Acres, 2 Roods, 3 Perches. Southern District, Cardwell, Herberton. Deed no. 55206.

1884 Charles B Alexander, 11 acres, 1 Rood. Southern District, Cardwell, Herberton. Deed no. 55207.

1884 Charles B Alexander, 8 acres, 2 Roods. Southern District, Cardwell, Herberton. Deed no. 55208.

1884 Charles B Alexander, 10 acres, 1 Rood. Southern District, Cardwell, Herberton. Deed no. 55209.

1890 Charles B Alexander, 4 acres, 1 Rood, 18 Perches. Northern District, Cardwell, Herberton. Deed no. 1269.

1894 Charles B Alexander, 20 acres, 1 Rood. Northern District, Cardwell, Herberton. Deed no. 4108.

1894 Charles B Alexander, 20 acres, 1 Rood. Northern District, Cardwell, Herberton. Deed no 4117.

1904 Charles B Alexander, 1 Rood, Town lot. Northern District, Hodgkinson. Irvinebank. Deed no. 6666.

1905 Charles B Alexander, 76 acres 2 Perches. Northern District, Nares, Barron. Deed no, 7118.

1905 Charles B Alexander, 72 acres 2 Roods 7 Perches. Northern District, Nares, Barron. Deed no. 7119.

1905 Charles B Alexander, 76 acres 7 Perches. Northern District, Nares, Barron. Deed no. 7120.

1905 Charles Booth Alexander, 2 Roods, Town lot. Northern District, Nares, Barron. Atherton. Deed no. 7027. Queensland Mineral Leases as recorded.

Charles Booth Alexander and Charles Turnbull Alexander

1891 Nicholas Hardman, John Moffat, **Charles Booth Alexander** mining district of Walsh, Irvinebank.

Mining for Tin. The land area of 20 Acres. Name of mine: **Tornado**. A yearly rent of ten pounds.

1892 Charles B Alexander, John Newell and John Edwards Hendricks Mining district of Tinaroo, Irvinebank, Mining for Silver. The land area of 9 Acres. Name of mine: **Niagara**. A yearly rent of 4 pounds and ten shillings.

1895 John Moffat, **Charles B Alexander**, and Thomas Swan. Mining district of Tinaroo, Irvinebank, mining for Tin. The land area of 5 Acres. **Tornado** area. A yearly rent of two pounds and ten shillings.

1900 Charles Booth Alexander, Mineral field of Walsh and Tinaroo, Irvinebank.

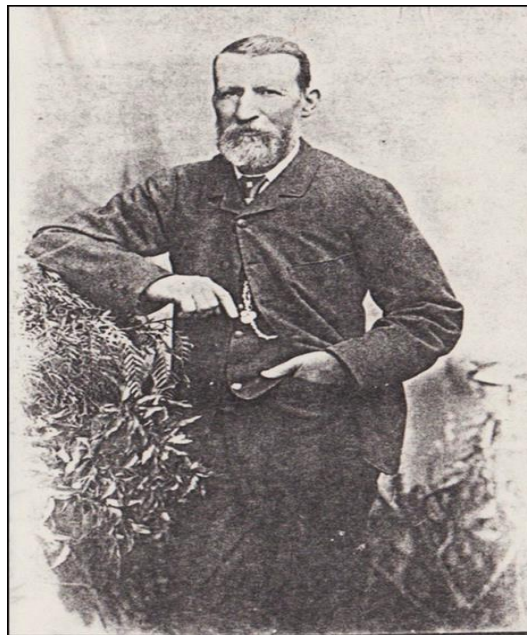
Mine name **Alexandria**. 10 acres mining for Tin and Copper. Yearly rent 2 pounds and ten shillings per year.

1902 John Moffat, **Charles Booth Alexander** and Thomas Swan. Mining district of Walsh and Tinaroo, Irvinebank, Mining for Tin. The land area of 5 Acres. Mine name **Barmecide**. Yearly rent of two pounds and ten shillings.

1907 John Moffat, **Charles Booth Alexander**. Mining district of Walsh and Tinaroo, Irvinebank. Mining for Tin. The land area of 16 Acres. 1 rood and 8 perches. **Tornado East** area. A yearly rent of 8 pounds and ten shillings.

1909 Charles Turnbull Alexander, Mineral field Chillagoe Parish of Koorboora area 5 acres. Mine name **Now or Never**, Yearly rent of 2 pounds and 10 shillings.

1916 John Moffat, **Charles Booth Alexander**. Mining district of Tinaroo, Irvinebank. Mining for Tin and copper. The land area of 12 Acres. **The Tornado and Vulcan** extended. A yearly rent of six pounds.



Charles Booth Alexander.

CHAPTER 24 | LAST WILL AND TESTAMENT OF CHARLES BOOTH ALEXANDER

Dated 2nd February 1915.

I Charles Booth Alexander of Tolga in the State of Queensland, freeholder hereby discard all former wills and testamentary dispositions heretofore made by one and declare this to be my last will and testament.

I elect Alexander M. Lachlan of Atherton in the said state, Store Manager and Thomas Delungra of Irvinebank in the said state, Store Manager to be sole executors and trustees of this my will.

I bequeath to my Daughter Lucy Ellen Cromb the sum of 400 pounds. To my son Arthur Lionel Alexander 200 pounds.

To my grandsons Kenneth Alexander, Leslie Gray Alexander and Charles Alexander the sum of 100 pounds each and my interest in Tornado and Vulcan mines, plant and machinery at Irvinebank aforesaid in equal shares.

And to my grand-daughter Margaret Alexander the sum of 50 pounds and my house and land whereon it built at Irvinebank aforesaid.

Likewise to my daughter Mary Catherine Buchanan Portion 89 V (72 acres 2 roods 7 perches) situated in the county of Nares and Parish of Barron and allotments 13 of section 31 situate in the said county Parish and the town of Cairns for her life and after her decease unto all and every the Issue of the body of the said M.C.V. Buchanan share and have alike as tenants in common and the heirs of such issue.

To my daughter Annie Gray Witton my allotments in Grace and William Street in the town of Herberton in the said state and my lands at Nigger Creek near Herberton aforesaid for her life and after her decease unto all and every, the issue of the body of the said A.G. Witton, share and share alike as tenants in common and the heirs of such issue.

To my daughter Lucy Ellen Cromb, portion 88V (76 acres 7 Perches) situated in the county of Nares and Parish of Barron for her life and after her decease unto all and every issue of the body of the said L.C. Cromb share and share alike as tenants in common and the heirs of such issue.

And to my son Arthur Lionel Alexander portion 87 V (76 acres 2 Perches) in the county of Nares and Parish of Barron for his life and after his decease unto all and every issue of the body of the said A.L. Alexander share and share alike as tenants in common and the heirs of such issue.

All the rest residue and remainder of my estate of whatever nature and whatsoever situate, I give devise and bequeath unto my trustees upon trust to sell call in collect and convert into money such pass over all thereof as shall not consist of money at such time or times and in such manner, as they shall think fit and so that they shall have the fullest power and discretion to ... sale calling or conversion of the whole or any part or parts of the said premises during such permission as they shall think proper without being responsible for the loss and divide the money to arise from such sale calling in or conversion or forming part of my residuary estate equally amongst my

children the said Mary C.V. Buchanan, Annie G. Witton, Lucy E. Cromb and Arthur L. Alexander.

Lastly, I devise and bequeath all estate vested in me as trustees or mortgages unto my trustee's subject to the trusts and equity the same respectively, in witness where I have here to set my hand this day of Second day of February 1915.

Signed C. B. Alexander

Signed and acknowledged by the Testators as and for his last will and testament in the presence of us both being present at the same time who at his request in his presence and in the presence of each other have hereunto subscribed following names as witnesses.

A. G. Grose.

Solicitor, Atherton

E. V. Higgins.

Law Clerk, Atherton.

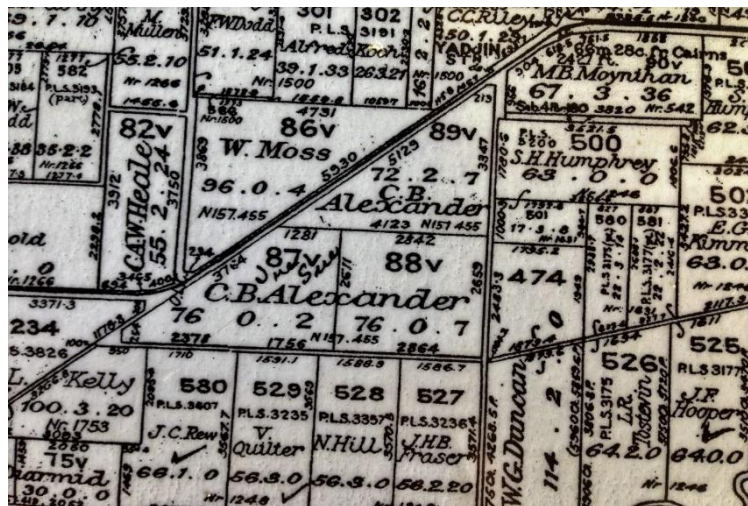
This document was located by the author at Loudoun House museum Irvinebank whilst visiting in 2017:

This is a codicil to the last will and testament of me Charles Booth Alexander of Tolga in the state of Queensland.

Whereas by my said will I have made certain gifts and bequests of my estate and appointed certain executors there to now I do hereby enjoin my said executors that they shall cause to be well and truly erected over my grave a good and substantial headstone and railing which shall be a charge upon my estate to a value not exceeding the sum of one hundred pounds.

In witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand this Eleventh day of February in the year of our Lord 1915.

Signed C.B. Alexander. Witness by Richard Barton and Percy Shadforth.



224-acre property owned by C.B. Alexander at Tolga on the Atherton Tablelands. Now worth 9 million dollars (2017) 87V, 88V, 89V.



Herberton Court House and Police Station, 2017.

Another story passed down is that when he was living his final years in Melbourne before his death, he would call out for his whisky, with his bright red nose and all. Merle's mother was against strong drink and was upset when Aunty Stella, daughter of Mary and Harry Buchanan with whom he lived, kept supplying.



Charles Booth Alexander with daughter Mary Catherine Buchanan who he lived with in his final years.

The Northern Herald, Cairns, Queensland, on Friday 30th March 1917 Page 5:

Charles Booth Alexander died at 431 Inkerman Rd. East St Kilda Melbourne 21st March 1917 aged 85, a well-known identity in Herberton and District.

Authors note the address as Fredrick Lionel Alexander and Arthur Cragge Alexander also bordered with Mary and Harry Buchanan at one time or another.

Cairns Post, 30th June 1917:

A Tolga Estate.

Our Townsville correspondent wired on Friday: At the Supreme Court probate of the will of Charles Booth Alexander, late of Tolga, freeholder, deceased, was granted by the Registrar, (Mr J. P. Quinn) to Alexander McLachlan, of Atherton, and Thomas Duclugar, of Irvinebank, the executors named in the will. Realty was under £3572, and. personally under £3150.

The estate of Charles was worth approximately £ 6,722 which was a fortune in those days.

Cemetery Details

Buried at Box Hill Cemetery, 395 Middleborough Road, Register Number 3250, Location B - 244. Baptist Section.

Gravestone states: *Erected in Loving Memory of our Father.*

Charles Booth Alexander died 21st March 1917.

A resident of Tolga and North Queensland for 40 Years.

It was a horrific few months for the Alexander family:

Charles Booth Alexander died on 21st March 1917.

His son, Arthur Lionel Alexander died in May 1917. (My grandfather)

And his grandson, Frederick Lionel Alexander died on 7 June 1917 on the Western Front, WW1.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Peter was born in 1950 and raised in Melbourne (Beaumaris). After starting out as an apprentice carpenter in 1965, he has now retired after 50 years as a builder. He moved to Mullumbimby in the Northern Rivers of New South Wales in 1979 and still lives there. He is married to Robyn and has three sons; all are builders in the Byron Shire. Robyn and Peter have four grandchildren and have traveled extensively in both Australia and overseas. Over the last 10 years, Peter has extensively researched his family ancestry and has become intrigued by early Australian history. Family, photography, surfing, and adventure travel are his passions.

In 2012, Robyn and Peter Alexander trekked the Himalaya from China to Kashmir for 40 days. Peter published a photobook, *Himalaya Sojourn*, to capture the magical memories of this epic journey with long-time friends Louis and Robin DeGrosbois.



Peter Alexander.

Robyn and Peter Alexander Himalayan Sojourn, 2012

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