

Grandpa Hollow's Brothers

William Charles Hollow (1870-1936)

William Charles Hollow, brother of our grandfather Alf, was born in 1870 and as with his siblings it is not clear who he lived with after his mother died in 1873 and his father left El Dorado in 1875/76. In later life he was a storeowner. He would have been too young to take notice when his father ran a store with Charles Rankin, his uncle by marriage, from 1872 to 1875 but in 1894 the local paper reported that William and Charles Rankin had been to the Western Australian goldfields, not to find gold, but to set up and operate a store together. The duo were due to go back to W.A. but probably didn't.

El Dorado.—Messrs Rankin and W. C. Hollow, who went to the "New" El Dorado in Western Australia, are back at present in the "Old" El Dorado. They did not try their fortune as miners at Coolgardie, but were very successful in commercial ventures. At one of the leading rushes they were the first storekeepers on the field. Very probably they will soon return again to the Western Colony.

The local paper also tells us that William was a sportsman, he plays football for the El Dorado team, getting into the best

players in matches and he is something of a runner, From 1890 William runs at sports meetings in El Dorado, Beechworth, Wangaratta and Benalla. So not content with just the local sports he travels.

In 1896 he also enters his horse "Fidget" in the pony race at the El Dorado Sports meeting. Fidget runs second in its race. At the same Sports meeting he is also a runner in the Sheffield Handicap on scratch. His brother Alf is also a contestant that day running off 5 yards.

By 1896 William has some sort of business in El Dorado. He applies to the local council for a hawkers licence annually He may have had a general store it seems as some of his



W.C. Hollow's Drapery store in Eldorado

William Charles HOLLOW was born in 1870 and married Flora CAMERON in 1901, they had three children.

Leslie A. HOLLOW b 01/12/1901, d 1936

William Henry HOLLOW b 18/09/1903, d 1963

Charles Rupert HOLLOW b 19/10/1907 d 1916

Flora died on 12/08/1910.

William married again in 1918 to Anne DOBSON they had two children.

Rupert HOLLOW b 31/10/1918, d 14/6/1990

Shirley HOLLOW b circa 1925.

produce, tobacco, was stolen on at least two occasions in 1897 and 1898. Eventually William turned the store into a draper's shop.

William appears to have found love in Benalla as well as running in foot races there. On January 22 1901 he is married in Benalla to a local girl, Flora Cameron. It is described as a quiet

Grandpa Hollow's Brothers

wedding due to a recent family bereavement. Flora's father had died in 1890; the wedding was at the home of a Mr Cameron, presumably an uncle. William's brother Alfred gave the bride away which was another departure from the usual custom.

Later, in September 1901, the El Dorado news section of the local paper carries this announcement... *Another new addition has been made to our main street. Mr. Hollow, our local draper, owing to increase of business, is having erected a new and commodious shop adjoining his old premises, which is nearing completion, and will form ,a splendid addition to the town ship.*

The photograph of the shop on the previous page has figures in front of the shop and may indicate that this is a celebration of the completed new premises.

Business must have been booming as in June 1902 William opens a Draper and Outfitter's shop in Benalla. William advertised extensively in the local Benalla paper one advertisement includes the name of "Mrs Hollow, Draper" so it seems Florrie, as she was known, worked in the shop. It seems that for a period William ran two shops as the El Dorado one seems to have continued. Despite the advertising he eventually closes the Benalla shop.

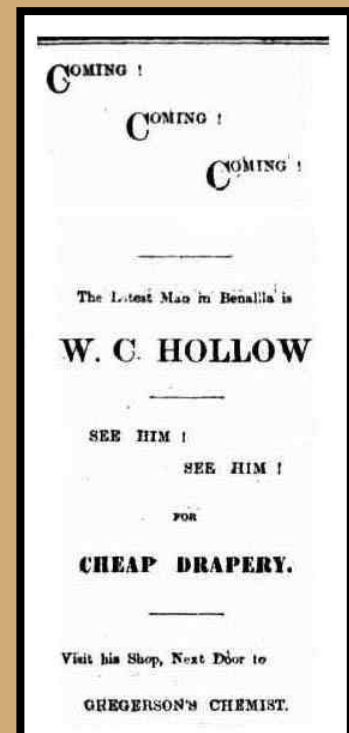
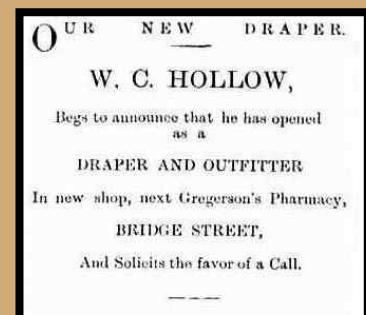
In 1902 he advertises a sale which may have been a sign of the Benalla shop's demise.

In 1908 the El Dorado football team are premiers and William and two of his boys are in the winner's photograph as supporters. William had played in the team in his earlier years. Florrie and William had three sons. It seems the Benalla shop had been closed by 1908.

In 1910 Florrie Hollow passed away. She succumbed to consumption or as we know it TB (tuberculosis). She died in Benalla at her sister's house, she had been ill for some months.



William Charles Hollow and his sons Leslie and William, 1908



William continued to live in El Dorado. In 1912 he was the El Dorado Tennis Club captain and he also participates in local concerts in sketches and as a singer. In newspaper reports another participant in concerts and in tennis is a Miss Annie Dobson who William marries in 1918. Before that happy event the family suffers another loss. William's youngest son Rupert, (Charles Rupert) dies of septic poisoning. Opinion was that dye from a new stocking

Grandpa Hollow's Brothers

entered his body through a sore on his foot. He had been in hospital a few days.

In May 1918 William married again to local girl Annie Dobson. He and Annie had two children, Rupert and Shirley.

In 1919 El Dorado are again premiers and this photo William jnr. is pictured, he would have been sixteen.

William Charles Hollow ran a Drapers store in Eldorado, until 1928 when the family left for Carnegie. Within a couple of years they moved to Richmond. In 1936 William died. His interest in sport must have continued as he died whilst a spectator during a football match between Richmond and Melbourne at the Richmond football ground.



**William Henry Hollow in
1919**

Death at Football Match

William Charles Hollow, aged 66 years, of Bowena parade, Richmond, collapsed and died at the Richmond Football-ground during the match between Richmond and Melbourne on Saturday.

His wife Annie died in Frankston in 1985 aged 90.

Joseph Henry Hollow (1872-1928)

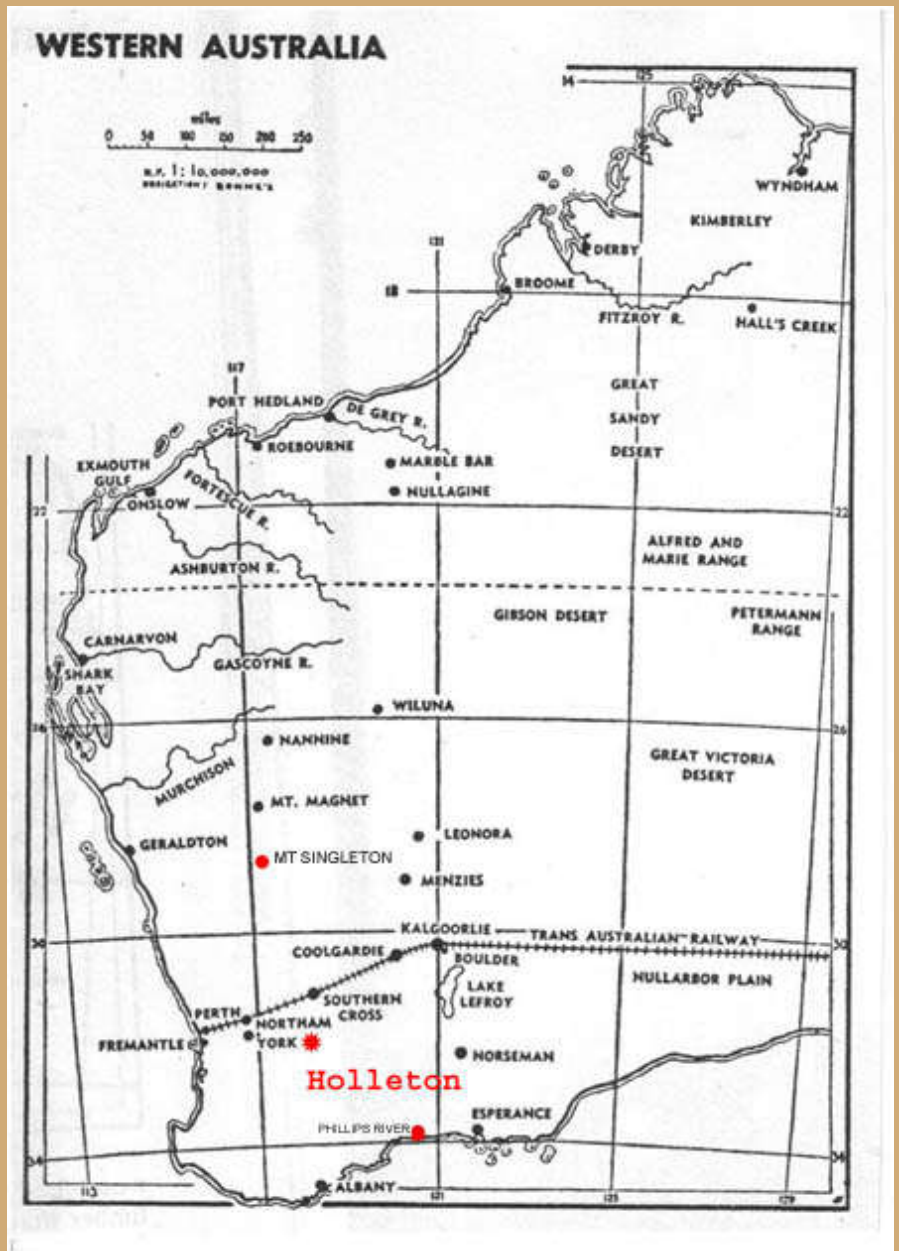
Joseph Henry Hollow was born in 1872, the third son of Joseph Hollow and Eliza Oates of El Dorado, Victoria. Eliza died in 1873 when Joseph was only one year old. He and his brothers, Alfred b 1868 and William b 1870 were brought up presumably by their aunts and grandparents in El Dorado. Joseph, their father, moved to Queensland after the death of his wife and lost contact with his family.

As a young man Joseph Henry moved to Western Australia and was known as a prospector around Southern Cross at about the turn of the century. As it turns out he developed quite a reputation as a gold prospector. The regional newspapers that have been scanned and are available online are peppered with references to him. The first reference I have found is in 1911/12 and then through until 1928 when he died I have found more than forty. This number will almost certainly increase as many papers and years have not been scanned yet.

Reports of Joe's death in 1928 stated he had prospected at the Phillips River and the Yilgarn for more than twenty five years. The Phillips river gold mining area was closer to Esperance than Southern Cross. The

newspaper reports of his prospecting are from around Southern Cross starting from 1911/12. I believe he may have gone to the Phillips River area before he moved north to the Southern Cross area. The area around Southern Cross is known as the Yilgarn and Joseph, known as Joe, prospected across a wide area of it.

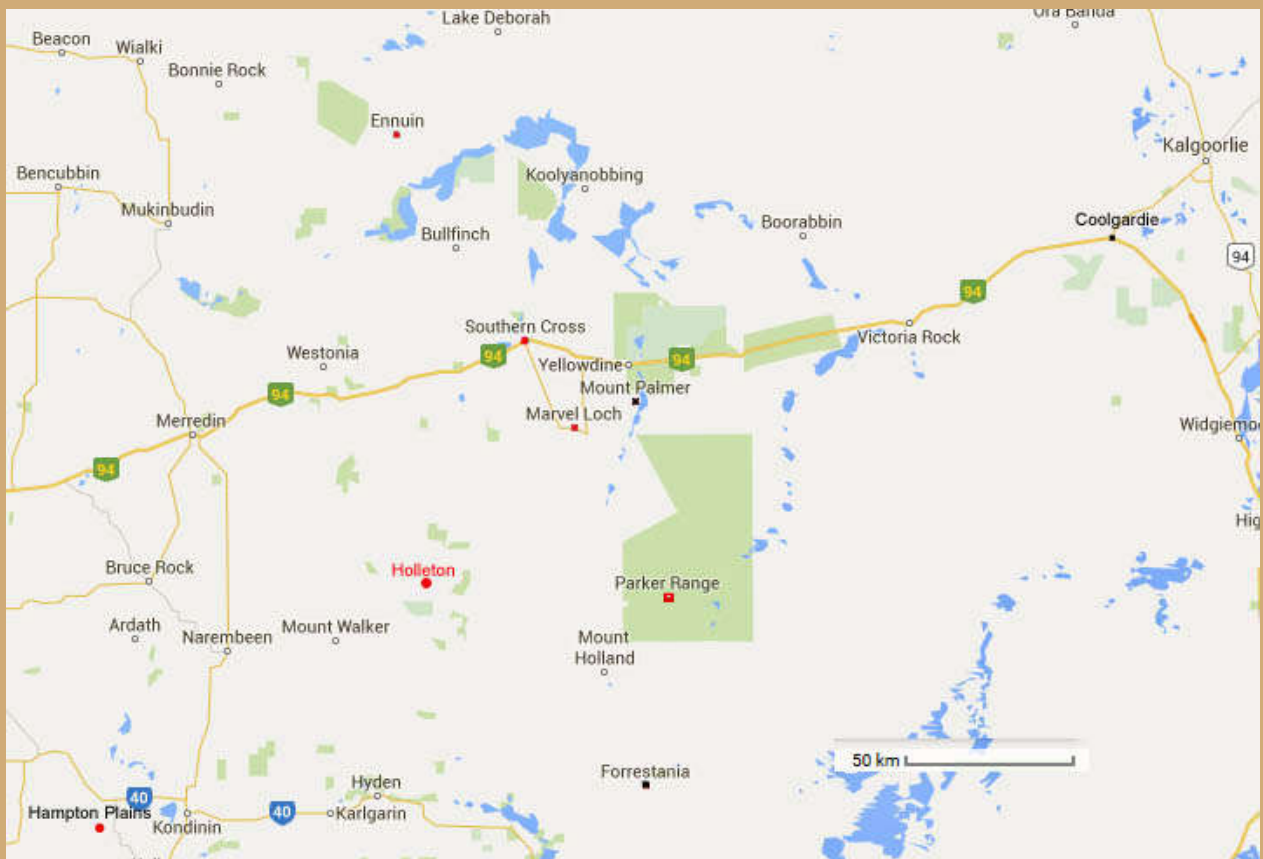
The Western Australia map shows the position of Southern Cross and Holleton of which there will be more of later. These distances will give you an appreciation of the vastness of Western Australia. Kalgoorlie the main town in the W.A. goldfields is 356 miles (593 Km) from Perth. Holleton is about 200 miles (320 Km) from Perth. The distance from Phillips River to Southern Cross is about 220 miles (370 Km) as the crow flies.



Grandpa Hollow's Brothers

For more than 25 years Joseph prospected in the Yilgarn and the Phillips River area and was once described as *"the Yilgarn's most reliable and best known prospector"*. He discovered a number of new finds but left little material wealth when he died. He discovered "the Banker", 10 miles SE of Marvel Loch and took over the lease of the "Francis Furnace". He also discovered gold in the Forrestiana area 40 miles S of Southern Cross.

Joseph was best known for discovering a new field in the Glenelg hills area 30 miles SW of Southern Cross in 1924. This field was originally known as "Hollow's Find" but was later changed to Holleton to include the names of both, Joseph Hollow and his partner Alfred Heaton.



In the years before the war Joe was reported to be prospecting at Ennuin (1911/12), Parker Range (1913), and Marvel Loch, (1914/15).

In 1915 the government were working on establishing a Mining Corps within the AIF of men with mining and tunnelling experience. Each state contributed to this and miners and prospectors began volunteering and Joe Hollow was one of the volunteers.

He joined the AIF on 5/2/1916 at the age of 43, his enlistment papers describe him as having a bronzed complexion with blue eyes and brown hair, he was 5'4" tall and weighed 140 lbs. He became a sapper in the army and was attached to the 2nd. Reinforcements of 3rd. Company of the 1st. Mining Battalion.

The Mining Corps was made up of men that... *"were on average older than most infantrymen but were marked by a capacity for very fast work and the willingness to take great risks"* from The History of WWI, by C.E.W. Bean.

Grandpa Hollow's Brothers

Joseph arrived at Marseilles aboard the "City of Edinburgh" on 17/5/1916 and marched in to the troop depot at Etaples, near Boulogne, on 1/6/1916. On the 24th June Joseph was admitted to hospital with pharyngitis, an infection of the throat and was subsequently shipped to England on the H.S. Newhaven.

On the 3rd of September 1916 he was taken on strength of the 1st. Australian Tunnelling Corps. At that time the Tunnelling Corps were on active duty at Hill 60, 2.5 miles SE of Ypres. The mines at Hill 60 were active from 1915 to 1917; they were started by the British and in April 1916 were taken over by the 3rd. Canadian Tunnelling Company, many Australians worked with this unit.

The 1st. Australian Tunnelling Company took over on the 9th. September so presumably Joseph Hollow saw active duty there. The mines were dug to undermine the German lines as part of a plan to capture Messines. The mines were finally blown up on the 7th. June 1917 and although the Australians remained until that time, Joseph Hollow was hospitalised in December 1916 with influenza, taken back to England and admitted to the 1st. General Hospital with bronchitis. When he recovered Joseph was transferred to the Australian Army Medical Corps in March 1917. He returned to Australia on, the troop ship A54. He arrived in Australia on December 17th. 1917 and was discharged from the army on the 6/3/1918.

His niece Gwen Fleming (Hollow) remembered Joe visiting the family for Christmas on his return home, Ivy, another niece, gave him a present and he said it was the first Christmas box he had ever received. Once during the visit the men were drinking beer and Uncle Joe offered some to Col, his nephew, who accepted it gladly. Col's mother, Margaret, was most upset about it as Col was only twelve at the time. This was the only time the family met Joseph, he returned to Western Australia to prospecting and mining.

After the war Joe was prospecting in the Hampton Plains (1920) before returning to Marvel Loch later in that year. A report late 1922 (opposite) describes Joe passing through Southern Cross en route to Mt Singleton. Mt Singleton is off this map, many kms south east of Geraldton. I have put it on the W.A. map on page 23.

Mt Singleton was not a success and Joe must have returned to the Yilgarn. The following extract from "The Holleton Story" compiled by Iris Bristow for the Narembreen Historical Society explains the discovery:

"Rumours had been rife, prior to 1924, that gold existed somewhere near the Rabbit Proof Fence. Prospectors, Mr. Joseph Hollow and his mate, Mr. Alfred Heaton decided that they would have a look and see if they could locate any of the gold that was supposed to be there.

Starting out with a prospecting outfit and a load of provisions, they went down the line from Southern Cross, and struck the Rabbit Proof Fence at Burracoppin. They altered their course and came south for about 50 miles, travelling along the fence. When they struck the grandstone country they gradually worked east for about 2.5 miles, where they found traces of gold. After considerable work they succeeded in locating a leader, "which was too rich to leave". The date was September 5th, 1924.

FRESH FIELDS.

Joe Hollow, a prospector who is well known in the Yilgarn Goldfield, passed through Southern Cross on Thursday en route to Mt Singleton, a new balt of auriferous country recently discovered, Joe's turnout consisted of a horse and cart and a dog and other necessary equipment. The means of locomotion was by train to Northern, thence by similar transport to Wubin, the Wongan Hills line. From Wubin the journey will be completed across country for a distance of 70 miles.

From *Yilgarn Merredin Times* Saturday 21 October 1922

Grandpa Hollow's Brothers

The Reward lease of 24 acres (Number 3280) was approved by the Governor in Executive Council on the 15th July, 1925, and rent for 5 years was remitted (the maximum number of years allowed). It was described as being 3 miles North East of the 50-mile peg on the Rabbit Proof fence. The Mining Registrar referred to the locality as Glenelg Hills, and reported that Hollow and Heaton were working with the assistance of the State Prospecting Board.

The find was known as Hollow's Find, and sometimes as Hollow and Heaton's Find. The two men resisted accepting options that were offered to them by mining entrepreneurs. On locating the gold in September 1924, Hollow and Heaton dollied about half a ton of stone for a result of 12 ozs of gold worth £3-19-6 (\$8) per oz. They preferred to open up the claim themselves and by June 1925 had dug a shaft 45 feet deep and by April 1926 had 25 tons of ore ready for crushing. This was to be done at Coolgardie. This resulted in a yield of 8 oz per ton at the Coolgardie Battery. This required carting the ore to the train line at Burracoppin 50 miles away and thence by rail to the battery at Coolgardie. This highlighted the difficulty with the field. The costs of this ate into any profits. Lack of water was another problem.

Despite this there was a rush to the area and many other claims were taken up; a township grew around the mining area. Many names were suggested but the name was finally fixed as Holleton in 1927, as it was quite a euphonious name, and also perpetuated the names of the original finders.

Joe Hollow and Alf Heaton eventually took out an option in December 1926 for £5,000 and a deposit of £300. Joe was reported as travelling to Melbourne at the time and it may have been this Christmas that Aunty Gwen remembered. At this time articles were published about the Glenelg Hills Mine are with a photograph that features Joe Hollow in prime position, centre front.

Joseph Hollow eventually sold his share in the Reward mine to his partner Alfred Heaton. Reports suggest they were frustrated with the delays in government assistance and decided to move on from Holleton. They moved back to a camp outside Marvel Loch around August 1928 but Joe was not well.

Joe died on September 20th 1928. His death was reported in numerous papers and invariably included high praise for him.



WELL KNOWN MINERS ON THE GLENELG HILLS FIELD.
Left to right: Messrs. J. Gerrie, E. C. Northmore, "Joe" Hollow, Wally La Pierre (finder of the Glenelg Queen), G. Brown and G. Davidson.

Grandpa Hollow's Brothers

The Kalgoorlie Miner report included this about Joe....

"During the past eight months he suffered from severe gastritis, and like many valiant gold seekers died at the camp fireside, outside his and Alf. Heaton's tent at Marvel Loch, where he struck good gold. The call to arms took him to the Great War. At Phillips River he was on gold and at Kundip too, but Glenelg Hills, the Reward claim and the townsite of Holleton, named after him and his mate Heaton, will keep memory green of a white man."

Joseph was buried on 23/9/1928 in grave no. 120 in the Anglican section of the Southern Cross cemetery. The inquest into his death in Southern Cross, the District Coroner returned a finding of death from natural causes, heart trouble being responsible. The investigation heard that he "complained of a pain in the stomach, an ailment to which he had been subject for about eight months. A few minutes later he collapsed on the ground. When Heaton picked Hollow up and laid him on a bunk he found he was dead."

Joe was 56 years old, he would have spent at least the last half of his life living in camps in mining areas. Despite his nomadic existence he made a large number of friends that turned up in force for his funeral in Southern Cross. Witness to the respect he was held in was shown by this letter to the Southern Cross Times a couple of weeks after his death.

LATE J. H. HOLLOW

A TRIBUTE FROM HOLLETON

Mrs. E. K. Davidson, of the Salvation Army, Holleton, writes:—
"I feel that it is my duty to pay a tribute to the memory of our departed friend and comrade, Mr. J. H. Hollow, who was the pioneer prospector of Holleton, and who practically died in harness. He was a great man, but had the grace not to know it. Humble and unassuming, the soul of honor, 'a soldier and a man.' It was men like him whom Chaplain M'Kenzie and other padres were proud to stand shoulder to shoulder with in the Great War, and, to use the padre's words: 'It made him feel honored to serve with those heroes.' We ask comfort for those relatives who will feel keenly the sudden termination of such a valuable life."

From here we take a couple of steps back and look at the lives of the first of our Hollow family to come to Australia.

Then we step back even further to look at our Cornish beginnings.