

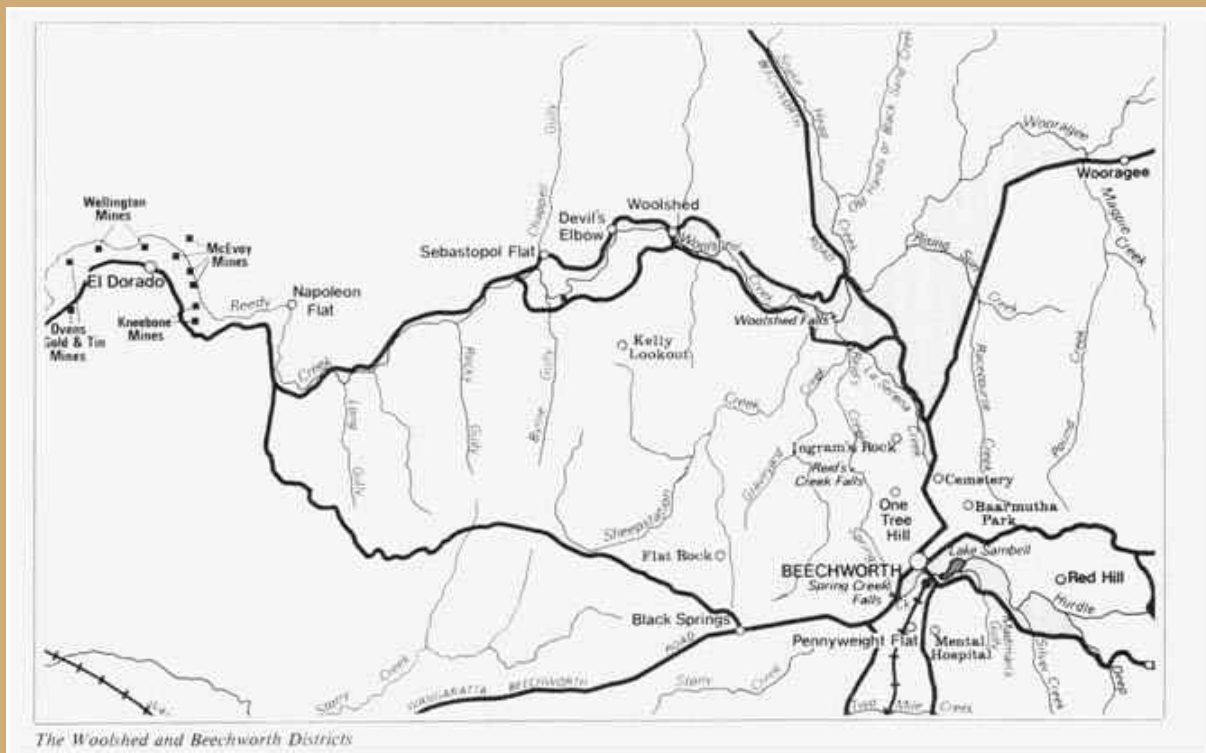
The El Dorado Hollows – The Beginning

Joseph Hollow Snr. and El Dorado Gold

Many explorers and adventurers have searched for El Dorado, the legendary “Lost city of gold”, since the days of the Spanish conquistadors. Though many have searched to find this city of gold, no evidence of such a place has been found. But in Victoria, Australia there is a town, El Dorado, that owes its existence to the gold it produced in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries and this gold ring is reputed to be made from El Dorado Gold mined by Joseph Hollow. Three generations of a Hollow family from Redruth were part of the gold mining that went on there. El Dorado is in what was known as the Ovens goldfields in North-eastern Victoria. See the map below.



The Ovens Goldfields District



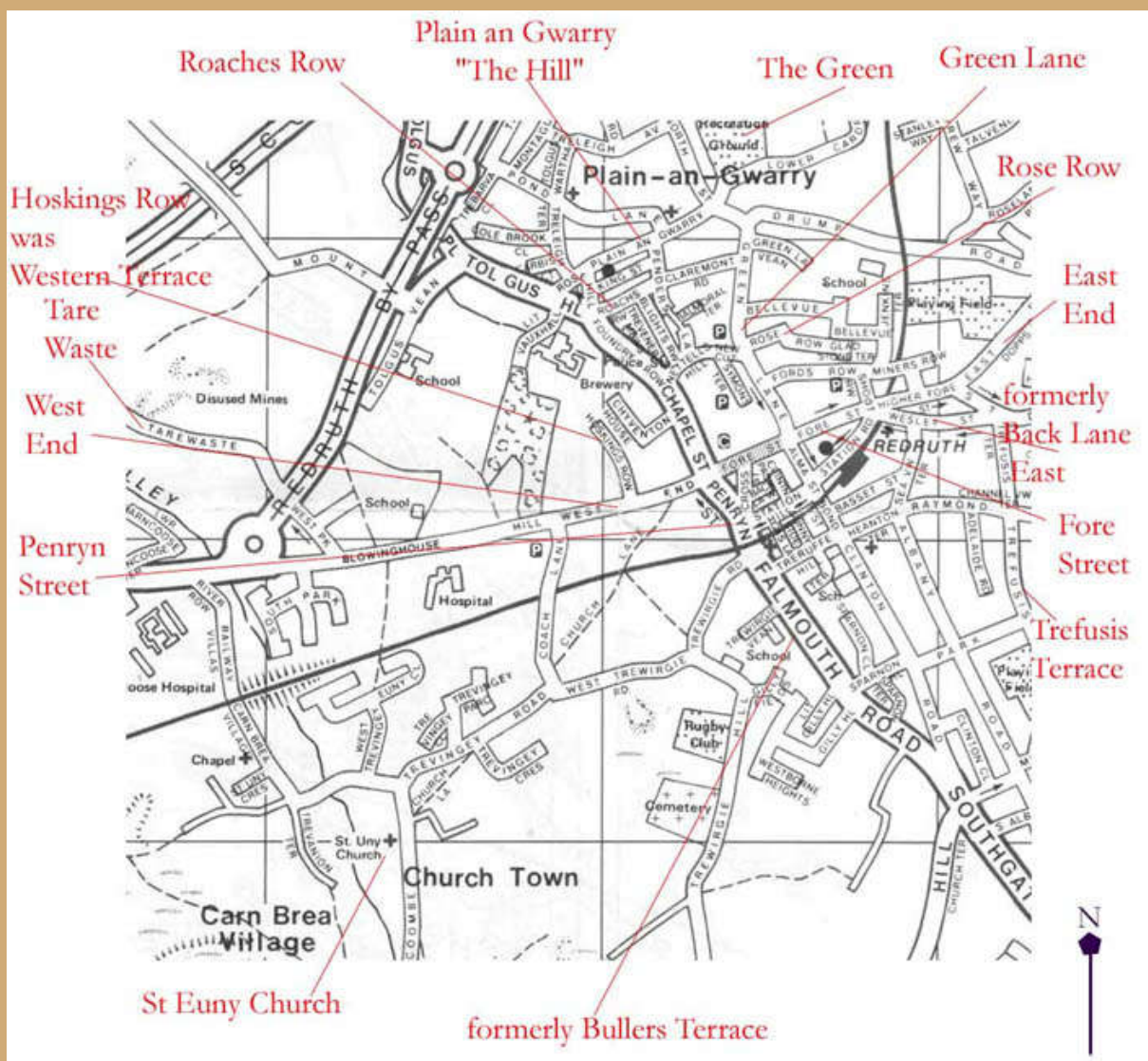
Gold was discovered in Victoria in 1851. Thus began an unprecedented series of gold rushes to numerous parts of Victoria, a publication of the Government Mines Department lists nineteen separate gold mining areas scattered over the whole state. The North East attracted two branches of the Redruth Hollows, Joseph; the youngest of Matthew

Hollow's nine children is the subject of this story. Two of his nephews, Joseph and John also worked mines in this area at Rutherglen.

Joseph Hollow Snr. (1817–1905) was born in Redruth, Cornwall. A family of Stonemasons by trade, Joseph was the last born in a family of eleven, seven boys all masons by trade except Joseph. In census records his occupation is given as Journeyman Carpenter, i.e. one who works for others. Joseph as with his siblings was baptised at the Redruth Parish Church of St Euny. His parents Matthew and Mary always recorded their address as Redruth Town. Their last census record in 1841 had them living in Fore Street which is the main street of the town.

Joseph married Jane Thomas on March 12th 1840 at St Euny and they were to have a family of eight children. Their first born, Mary Elizabeth, died aged six weeks and another child Alfred died aged eight years in 1858. Joseph and Jane were not as regular with baptisms as the rest of the family but fortunately the birth dates and death dates for the whole family were recorded in a family bible which is in the hands of descendents, the Burgel family. See image on the next page.

The records that are available show that Jane and Joseph lived over the years at Hoskings Row, Hicks Row, West End and Western Terrace, all streets that are close to Fore Street, the middle of Redruth. See map of Redruth below.



In 1853 the Hollows made a momentous decision. Joseph left Redruth to join the gold rushes in Australia and the family remained behind and waited for Joseph to send for them, he probably would have needed to make the money needed to pay for their passage. It was a wait of more than ten years for Jane and most of her family.

Joseph left Liverpool on 22nd of November 1853 aboard the ship "Hibernia" and arrived in Melbourne on 21st. February 1854. The

"Hibernia" was a ship of 1065 tons and carried 257 passengers, 219 adults and 37 children. Joseph's first movements in Australia are described in his obituary published on his death in 1905.

Joseph Hollow	Born 21 st December 1817	Died June 2 nd 1905
Jane Hollow	Born 5 th November 1818	Died Apr 27 th 1898
Mary Elizabeth Hollow	Born July 25 th 1840	Died Nov 1 st 1900
Joseph Hollows	Born July 21 st 1841	
Fanny Thomas Hollow	Born Jan 20 th 1843	Died May 2 nd 1928
Emily's Hollow	Born Jan 7 th 1843	Died 30 Aug 1891
Elizabeth Jane Hollow	Born Sep 25 th 1846	
Charles Hollows	Born July 31 st 1848	Died 21 Feb 1929
Alfred Hollow	Born July 6 th 1850	Died 20 Feb 1858
Lucy Hollow	Born Feb 7 th 1853	

Joseph Hollow "...came to Victoria with a large party of fellow townsmen..." and travelled to Spring Creek (Beechworth) in February 1854 directly on his arrival in Australia. At Spring Creek he built the first water wheel and during the next six years prospected and dug for gold at The Three Mile, The Woolshed and Sebastopol." These places are all mining areas around Beechworth.

In 1856 another family decision was made, Joseph's eldest son, also Joseph, travelled to Australia and the Ovens' goldfield. He travelled with John Bawden and his son William. They sailed on December 12th 1856 on the ship "Gipsy Bride" and landed in Melbourne on March 10th 1857. Joseph and William were listed as aged eleven and ten but that was a bit of a fib because Joseph was fifteen and William thirteen. The change of ages may have been done to limit the cost of the passage. The Bawdens must have been close friends; Joseph was listed as a John Bawden's nephew on the ship's register. William Bawden eventually married Joseph's sister, Fanny in 1865, but at the time of their passage to Australia there is no evidence that they were related.

The rest of the family had remained in Redruth. In early 1858 the family suffered the death of Joseph and Jane's seven year old son Alfred.

Alfred died in tragic circumstances as a result of a schoolboy accident. The accident was reported in the local Cornish paper in the following way.

On Saturday last, at Redruth, on the body of Alfred HOLLOW, aged seven years, who died on the morning of that day from an injury he received on the 8th instant, by one of his fingers being crushed between the cog wheels of a chaffing machine exposed for sale outside Mr. TERRIL'S workshop, at the east end of town, and which the deceased and some other little boys were amusing themselves with by turning round the knives. A verdict of accidental death was returned by the jury, but they laid great blame to Mr. Terril for exposing a machine of that description by the side of public road? where children were constantly in the habit of passing and re-passing to and from school

without its being tied or chained, so as to prevent children from turning round the wheels, and by their desire Mr. Terril was sent for, and cautioned by the coroner.

West Briton and Cornwall Advertiser February 26th 1858

Later in Australia, their son Charles, two years younger than Alfred added Alfred to his name. He is often recorded as Alfred Charles Hollow. Our grandfather of course was Alfred Hollow too. He was born ten years after his uncle died but the memory must have been still raw within the family.

There is no doubt that Joseph's life in Australia would have been one of immense hardship. In the early years he would have lived in tents or bush huts. In these mining communities makeshift hotels and eating houses sprang up and supplied the largely wifeless miners with working men's meals. The El Dorado field involved putting down shafts into ground that held a lot of water. Miners would have worked in wet muddy and dangerous conditions, collapses in these shafts were common. The problem was so great at El Dorado that the mine managers eventually developed an agreed standard of shaft construction in an attempt to reduce the number of mine collapses.

Joseph lived this way for almost eleven years. For much of the time he had his son with him. Many of the men he worked with were in similar situations. Joseph junior celebrated his 21st birthday in El Dorado a full two years before he was joined by his mother and the rest of his siblings.

It is quite probable that while Joseph was sending back positive messages for his friends to come to the Ovens goldfields. In 1855 mining commenced at El Dorado Flat South of The Woolshed and Sebastopol. The first mining company established in El Dorado was the "Kneebone" in 1858. In 1859 Joseph arrived at El Dorado when the Kneebone shaft had just been sunk and he was one of the sixteen tributers that took up an adjoining claim that was to become the Mc Evoy mine.

Tributer is a Cornish term; the Cornish miners would negotiate a tribute, a contract, with a mine owner with a fixed price for the ore they mined over a period. However it seems that these tributers were actually shareholders in the mine. William and John Bawden and William Oates (he became Joseph junior's father-in-law) were also shareholders although Joseph junior was not. There were many family links between the shareholders.

Joseph Hollow was present when the first gold was found in the McEvoy. In the book *El Dorado of the Ovens Goldfields* the moment is recorded thus:

Joseph Hollow and Greg Rabey were working on the shaft when the first wash dirt with visible gold in it was found. Joseph who was on the brace, called out, "Come up Rabey" and Rabey replied, "No, I've got better down here. The Union Jack was then hoisted on one of the poppet legs."

In 1861 Joseph applied for a goldmining lease which amounted to over 76 acres of the El Dorado Township. Whether this was granted and what Joseph did with it is unclear but it shows that he had an entrepreneurial streak and was not content at just being a miner. The application included a map and this map was drawn on silk and is to be found on the El Dorado Museum. A photo here is indistinct but the information on the map can be found in the book *El Dorado Gold...An Australian Story*. It is an important map as it sets out the position of all the residences in Eldorado at the time and who owned them. Strangely Joseph Hollow is not shown as owning a residence. However John Bawden, William Henry Bawden and several other McEvoy tributers are shown with houses. In

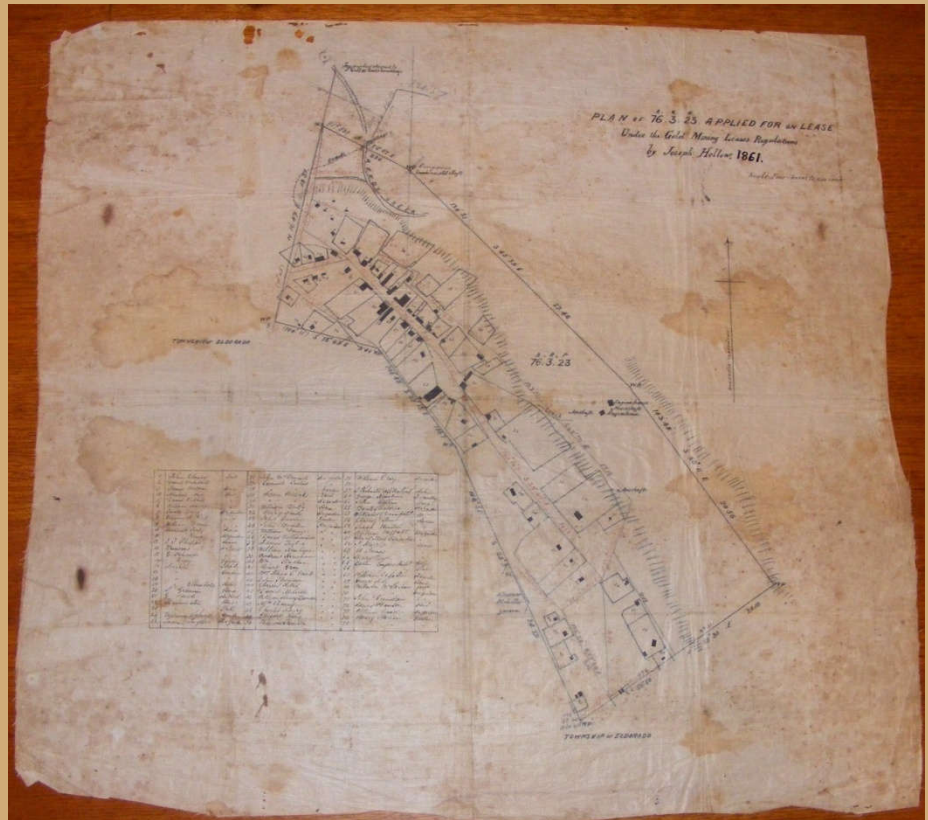
1861 only Joseph and his son were in El Dorado, the rest of the family wouldn't arrive until 1864. He may have been living with John Bawden or his son William Henry Bawden.

The McEvoy became a very successful mine. In 1864 for Jane and the rest of the family arrived in Australia. They sailed on the "Red Rose" on March 3rd 1864 and arrived in Melbourne on June 15th. The ship had an eventful trip; the Red Rose caught fire when off the Cape of Good Hope. The fire was about six feet forward of the main hatch.

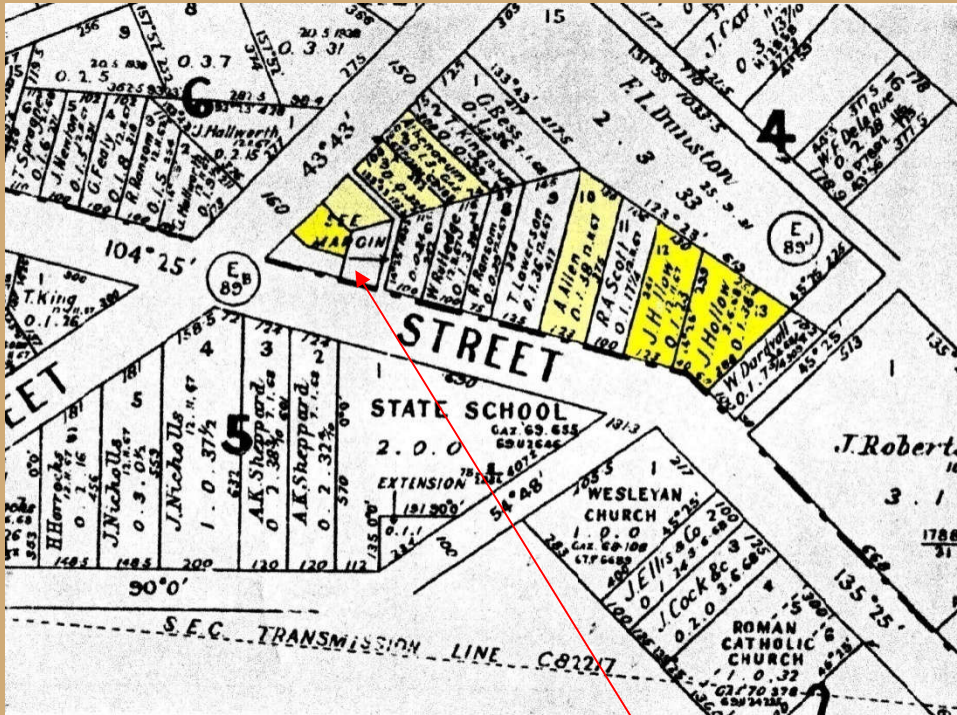
Fortunately the fire was quickly brought under control and the Red Rose was able to continue the journey.

Ailie Burgel, a descendant of Joseph, had a document that stated *"the Hollow family came out from England with all their furniture and their girl from the poor house as a helper maid"*. There are no clues in the Ship's register as to who this maid was. The trip from Melbourne to El Dorado would have taken several days over very rough tracks. The children who travelled with Jane were Fanny (aged 20), Emily (18), Elizabeth (16), Charles (14) and Lucy (12).

The miners in El Dorado also invested money in the local mines. In 1865 Joseph Hollow was listed, along with many other local miners, as a shareholder in The Ovens Gold and Tin Mining Company. His liability was \$25. From 1864 he was the secretary of the McEvoy Company that changed its name to the United El Dorado Mining Company. Company advertisements seeking suppliers for the mine were signed by Joseph Hollow in this capacity. During the late 1860s and 1870s Joseph was more and more involved in community and business matters. He was often the chosen chairperson for public meetings. In 1870 he chaired a meeting of Wellington Company (another local mining company) shareholders, the Athenaeum hall building fund, the Wesleyan Methodist Missionary Society and an El Dorado Common School committee. So often did he chair meetings that at one point he was referred to as the "Perpetual Chairman". In this period he was a director of the Star of the East mining company, another mining company that had works in Beechworth.



Joseph Hollow's 1861 map.



In 1867 the township of El Dorado was gazetted and blocks of land within the town were being sold. Joseph Hollow was recorded as owning land in the township of El Dorado. Maps show that Joseph had two blocks of land, Lot 12 taken up on 12.11.1867 and Lot 13 taken up on

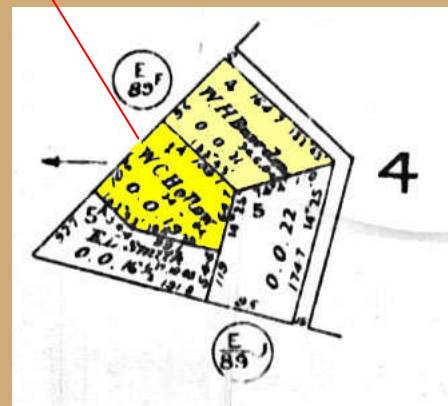
3.6.1868.; Lot 10 was taken up by A. Allen also on 12.11.1867. This is Anthony Allen who was to marry Joseph's daughter Lucy in 1899. Joseph built a house on this land described in the 1871 rates list as a cottage and garden. The house is no longer there, the land which is opposite the State School is now a caravan Park. The school is the now the local museum.

In 1871 Joseph junior advertises a house for sale. It may have been him that took up one of the blocks listed for J Hollow.

An enlargement of the corner block shows that it included William Henry Bawden's house and a block owned by W.C. Hollow; both were taken up on 24.6.1904. William Charles Hollow was Joseph's grandson born in 1870 and ran a Draper's shop from these premises until 1924.

Joseph Hollow was very much involved in the local community. In 1867 the Manchester Unity Independent Order of Oddfellows – Loyal El Dorado Lodge was established. Joseph Hollow junior was one of the initial members but by the end of the year Joseph senior was also a member. In 1868 Joseph senior was appointed to the committee of management of some land set up for Athenaeum purposes in the town. In this context it would have meant land for a hall with a library. The land is shown on the town map adjacent to W.H.Bawden's property.

By 1871 Joseph Hollow seems to have moved away from direct contact with mining. He remained as secretary of the United El Dorado Mining Company overseeing contractors supplying goods and services to the mine. In 1872 Joseph was elected a councillor on the North Ovens Shire but in December of that year he resigned his place on council after some local opposition to his election. On the 7th June 1872 Joseph had been made a local magistrate and on 4th Jan 1875 he was elevated to the title of Justice of the Peace, the first J.P. appointed at El Dorado. Joseph's appointment as a J.P. is published



in the Government Gazette. Sir Redmund Barry the Senior Judge of the Colony of Victoria and Officer administrating the Government of the colony signs the notice. Sir Redmond Barry was just five years away from sentencing Ned Kelly to hang and then dying himself just twelve days after Kelly's hanging.

In 1875 a local directory lists Joseph Hollow as a J.P. and storekeeper at El Dorado although the storekeeper was probably his son Joseph (see next chapter). This corresponds with a period of prosperity for the El Dorado mines of which the McEvoy was one of the major ones. Joseph would have been almost sixty at this point. The rate lists of the time show that many of the other McEvoy shareholders were listed as having gardens at this time.

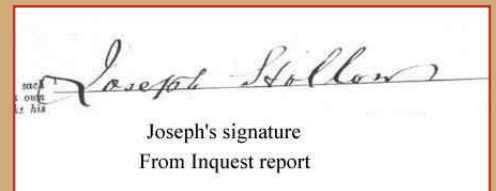
Joseph seemed to have put his energies into being a town leader, more and more he was called on to chair public meetings. Some of these meetings involving local politicians are reported on in the Melbourne paper The Argus. He also sat on the local Police Court, part of his role as a J.P. and this continued almost until his death in 1905.

The Argus of 6 Apr 1888 reports Mr J Hollow the officer in charge of the Government diamond drills at El Dorado has forwarded to the secretary for Mines a sample of the tin ore and gold taken from No 7 bore at a depth of 60ft Mr Hollow writes that "the wash is 5ft thick and the gold of a very flaky character".

Joseph would have been 70 then and obviously taking up other roles. The 1889/90 directory lists him as J.P. and fruit grower. In 1890 his wife Jane dies, his daughter Lucy had been widowed and possibly lived with him. Another daughter Fanny, married to William Bawden still lived in the town.

Joseph was still active though. In 1895 a collapse in the McEvoy mine caused the deaths of six miners, a jury was established to conduct the inquiry and Joseph was made the foreman. Joseph's direct involvement with the mine probably ceased in 1875 when the mine closed but it had been reopened on 1890 under new management. The jury for the inquiry included four of the original shareholders.

A weekly rural newspaper, The Weekly Times, did a photo spread on this disaster which included a photograph with the caption "Old identities of El Dorado, mining men of early years and original shareholders in the McEvoy mine."



I would expect that Joseph Hollow being foreman of the jury, an original shareholder and pioneer of the town would be in it. If he is in the photo we could expect him to have pride of place, i.e. seated in the middle for not only was he foreman of the jury, he was the oldest of the surviving share holders. Note his shining boots. It may be the only photograph still around of Joseph.

Joseph was still taking his place as a magistrate on the local bench in 1896; he would have turned 79 in that year. The last newspaper reference of him sitting at the El Dorado Police Court was in November 1903.

Joseph Hollow died in 1905 in his 86th year. These extracts from two obituaries show the something of his reputation in the El Dorado community.



Old identities of El Dorado, mining men of early years and original shareholders in the McEvoy mine.

I think Joseph Hollow is seated front centre

Photo from The Weekly Times, August 3, 1895

He was a fine specimen of the pioneers and was held in the highest regard as a man of honour and sterling worth.

He took an active interest in many local movements and was noted for his clear judgement and sound advice. For many years he was associated with the Board of Advice and as a J.P. occupied the Bench and to his credit for many a long day.

The deceased gentleman in by gone days followed the avocation of a brickmaker, when the El Dorado goldfields were in their prime, and foreshadowed a prosperous career for those willing to sink their surplus capital in the El Dorado mines, and in support of the deceased gentleman's contention we may point to that progressive mine, The Cock's Pioneer, which recently declared a dividend and is in a fair way to recompense its shareholders for their outlay twofold.

This brings us back to the family gold ring. There are some unanswered questions. The last El Dorado Hollow that owned the ring was Alfred Hollow, Joseph's grandson. The family story is that it originally belonged to Joseph. The initials engraved on the ring are hard to define but they do look more like A H than J H? Was it Alfred's or Joseph's? Or was it used to make an impression on sealing wax for legal documents by Joseph? They both mined El Dorado gold. Looking back it would seem that Joseph may have been the

one to have had the extra cash to invest in such a valuable ring. On Alfred's death the ring was passed down to Alfred oldest surviving son, also Alfred.

When Uncle Alf died the ring went to his daughter Roslyn. Ros passed it on to me saying she felt it should stay in the hands of a Hollow. Now there are two more generations of Hollows to pass the ring on to. Whatever the story of the ring, was it Joseph's or Alfred's, it is quite a responsibility to have temporary care of the ring.

The Descendants of Joseph Hollow Snr.

Joseph HOLLOW, b. 1817 at Redruth, CON, d. 1905 at El Dorado, VIC
+**Jane THOMAS**, b. 1818 at Redruth, CON, m. 1840 at Redruth, CON, d. 1890 at El Dorado, VIC

- **Mary Elizabeth HOLLOW**, b. 1840 at Redruth, CON, d. 1840 at Redruth, CON
- **Joseph HOLLOW**, b. 1841 at Redruth, CON, d. 1918 at Croydon, QLD
- +**Eliza Jane OATES**, b. 1851 at Kenwyn, CON, m. 1867 at Beechworth, VIC, d. 1873 at El Dorado, VIC
 - **Alfred HOLLOW**, b. 1868 at El Dorado, VIC, d. 1943 at Wangaratta, VIC
 - **William Charles HOLLOW**, b. 1870 at El Dorado, VIC, d. 1936 at Richmond, VIC
 - **Joseph Henry HOLLOW**, b. 1872 at El Dorado, VIC, d. 1928 at Southern Cross, W.A
- +**Maria HENRINGTON**
 - **Arthur WILKINSON**, b. 1876 at El Dorado, VIC
 - **Esther Maria WILKINSON**, b. 1876 at El Dorado, VIC
- **Fanny Thomas HOLLOW**, b. 1843 at Redruth, CON, d. 1928 at Thornbury, VIC
- +**William Henry BAWDEN**, b. 1843 at St Erth, CON, m. 1865 at Beechworth, V., d. 1907 at El Dorado, VIC
 - **Sarah Matilda (Millie) BAWDEN**, b. before 1868 at El Dorado, VIC
 - **Elizabeth (Bessie) BAWDEN**, b. 1868, d. 1953 at Yarrowonga, VIC
 - **Fanny Clara BAWDEN**, b. 1870 at El Dorado, VIC
 - **Mary Beatrice Maude BAWDEN**, b. 1871 at El Dorado, VIC, d. 1959 at Thornbury, VIC
 - **Florence Emily BAWDEN**, b. 1874 at El Dorado, VIC, d. 1955 at Hampton, VIC
 - **Edwin Charles Matthew BAWDEN**, b. 1876, d. 1901
 - **Ethel Evelyn Mathews BAWDEN**, b. 1878 at El Dorado, VIC, d. 1966 at Burwood, VIC
 - **Alice Maude Mathews BAWDEN**, b. 1880, d. 1923
- **Emily HOLLOW**, b. 1845 at Redruth, CON, d. 1901 at Springhurst, VIC
- +**Charles Henry RANKIN**, b. 1835 at Monaghan, m. 1866 at El Dorado, VIC, d. 1904 at Springhurst, VIC
 - **John Charles RANKIN**, b. 1867 at Beechworth, VIC, d. 1929
 - **Catherine Jane RANKIN**, b. 1868 at El Dorado, VIC, d. 1898 at Rutherglen, VIC
 - **William Frederick RANKIN**, b. 1871 at El Dorado, VIC, d. 1941 at Rutherglen, VIC
 - **Hubert MacAdam RANKIN**, b. 1873 at El Dorado, VIC, d. 1941 at Fairfield, VIC
 - **Henry Samuel James RANKIN**, b. 1880 at El Dorado, VIC, d. 1935 at Melbourne, VIC
- **Elizabeth Jane HOLLOW**, b. 1846 at Redruth, CON, d. 1920 at Manly, N.S.W.
- +**James DUNSTAN**, m. 1865 at El Dorado, VIC
 - **Alfred John DUNSTAN**, b. 1866 at Beechworth, VIC, d. 1950 at Mosman, N.S.W.
 - **Ethel Bertha Lucy DUNSTAN**, b. 1872 at El Dorado, VIC, d. 1957 at Chatswood, N.S.W.
 - **Percy E DUNSTAN**, b. 1880 at Cobar, N.S.W, d. 1900 at Burwood, N.S.W.
- **Charles HOLLOW**, b. 1848 at Redruth, CON, d. 1929 at Caulfield, VIC
- +**Anne Myline FLEMING**, b. 1854 at Edinburgh, m. 1878 at El Dorado, VIC, d. 1879 at Glenlyon, VIC
- +**Margary CANDY**, b. 1850 at CON, m. 1885 at Williamstown, VIC, d. 1924 at Richmond, VIC
- **Alfred HOLLOW**, b. 1850 at Redruth, CON, d. 1858 at Redruth, CON
- **Lucy HOLLOW**, b. 1853 at Redruth, CON, d. 1922 at Cheltenham, VIC
- +**Lewis Evan THOMAS**, b. 1846, m. 1877 at El Dorado, VIC, d. 1878 at VIC
 - **Lewis THOMAS**, b. 1877 at El Dorado, VIC, d. 1877
- +**Anthony ALLAN**, b. 1836, m. 1899 at El Dorado, VIC, d. 1912 at El Dorado, VIC

Family Expansion in El Dorado

The family were no sooner together again in Australia in 1864 when it started to expand. In 1865 two of Joseph's daughters married. Fanny Thomas Hollow married William Henry Bawden who had joined Joseph in El Dorado in 1857. The two would have both been early teenagers when they were last together in Redruth. Earlier the same year Elizabeth Jane Hollow married James Dunstan, the manager of McEvoy mine where Joseph Hollow and John and William Bawden were shareholders and worked.

In 1866 another daughter, Emily married another local Charles Henry Rankin. Charles is a bit of a mystery. He used the name Charles Henry and Charles Henry Rankin in El Dorado. His marriage was registered under the name Henry and his five children were registered as Henry's in the birth records. However there were times when he used the name Charles Henry Rankin, as a shareholder in the McEvoy mine for example.

In 1888 a three volume publication, Victoria and its Metropolis, was produced. It is essentially a history of the English settlement of Victoria. It contains many biographies of the residents of Victoria. People were invited to submit their biographies and pay a fee to have them included. Charles Henry also known as Charles Henry Rankin submitted his.

"RANKIN, Charles Henry, Springhurst, came from Ireland, his native country, to Melbourne in 1853. For some time was employed at mining and other avocations in various places, amongst others, store keeping at El Dorado. In 1879 he took up his abode at Springhurst, where he selected 320 acres, and purchased 250 acres of land, and devoted himself to general farming, grazing and winegrowing. He has now 14 acres of vineyard and holds 2500 gallons of wine in stock. He was married at El Dorado and has four sons and a daughter."

Charles and Emily's children, although registered as Henrys, all took the name Rankin. The use of the two names seemed to be accepted. His father-in-law Joseph Hollow was a solid member of the community and you cannot imagine he would be able to accept the situation if there was impropriety involved.

The "store keeping at El Dorado" mentioned actually involved Charles Henry Rankin's brother-in-law Joseph Hollow Junior. They ran a general store in partnership in El Dorado for two and half years from January 1872 to June 1874. The two men bought a business from the widow of Enoch Matthews. Enoch Matthews was also one of the original shareholders of the McEvoy mine along with many of the Hollow extended family. Enoch had died in April 1871.

In 1867 Joseph junior had married Eliza Jane Oates the daughter of William Oates another shareholder and worker at the McEvoy mine. In 1857 when Joseph junior was coming out to El Dorado, the Oates family from Kenwyn near Truro were also bound for the Ovens goldfields. William Oates and his wife and family sailed on the "Royal Albert" for Adelaide and subsequently made their way to by paddle steamer along the Murray river to Wahgunyah and then over land to El Dorado. The families probably did not know each other back in Cornwall, Kenwyn is 10 miles

DESIRABLE INVESTMENT.
FOR SALE.
In the centre of El Dorado,
A FIRST-CLASS
S T O R E ,
AND
PRIVATE RESIDENCE.
Attached,
With Stables and every facility for carrying on a large trade.
An Excellent Business was done by the late Proprietor, Mr Enoch Matthews, whose death is the only reason for Selling the property. To a good business man this is a chance that seldom offers.
Also, a
Team of Five Draught Horses,
With **HARNESS and WAGGON, Complete.**
For Particulars apply on the premises, or to Mr W. Ward, El Dorado. 599

from Redruth but obviously the men met and commenced working together once at the Ovens goldfield. Another original McEvoy shareholder Gregory Rabey, mentioned earlier finding the first gold in the McEvoy, was also from Kenwyn.

Joseph junior showed signs of following his father in being a community minded person. In February 1867 he was one of eleven men who met to establish the Manchester Unity Independent Order of Oddfellows – Loyal El Dorado Lodge. This was part of a growing movement of Friendly Societies that attracted working men to membership. Whilst the lodge had some of the regalia and rituals that we recognise from modern lodges such as the Masonic Lodge they also provided sickness and death benefits to members in times of need. So they also provided a form of insurance for its members. Joseph was member number 2 on the lodge's roll. The Lodge membership grew rapidly and it included most of the Hollows relatives and business associates. In 1891 the third generation of Hollows is listed amongst the membership, Alfred Hollow, son of Joseph junior. He would have been twenty three.

Joseph and Eliza had three children, Alfred born 1868, William Charles, b 1870 and Joseph Henry b 1872. On the June 4th 1873 Eliza died of effusion of the brain which today is called a brain haemorrhage, she was only 22 years old. Three boys under the age of five were left to care for.

Joseph had joined Charles Henry in the general store venture just as his last child was born. Within a year he had lost his wife Eliza. In 1871 Joseph junior advertised a four room house for sale, cheap. Perhaps he needed the money to buy into the general store business. The business as we can see from the advertisement came with a residence.

Newspaper records show that as well as running the business Joseph continued to take part in community duties. He served on inquest juries in 1870, 1874 and 1875. In 1875 he was the secretary of the El Dorado annual Race meeting a very important event in El Dorado life. It appeared Joseph was becoming adjusted to life as a widower and perhaps also looking after his children. He may have even had a house keeper. There was a widow in El Dorado, Maria Wilkinson she had four children and her husband had been killed in a horse fall at the end of 1873.

Joseph had a liaison with this local widow, Maria Wilkinson, twins were born in 1876 and although no father was registered, the twins, eight months later were put into care. Records from the institution that looked after them show the father was recorded as Joseph Hollow but he had left El Dorado.

Joseph was known to be an engine driver. He probably worked the engines of the mines.

This must have had enormous repercussions within the family. The last record of Joseph in the minutes of the Lodge is in October 1875. We know he went to Queensland and worked in the mining town of Charters Towers before moving to the Croydon area in the Gulf of

FOR SALE, CHEAP,
A FOUR-ROOMED WEATHERBOARD COTTAGE, with Iron Roof, Garden and Out-houses attached, situated opposite the bridge at McEvoy's Claim, El Dorado. Apply to Joseph Hollow, junr., on the premises. 7 jly 8 s

Advert in Ovens and Murray Advertiser 1 July 1871

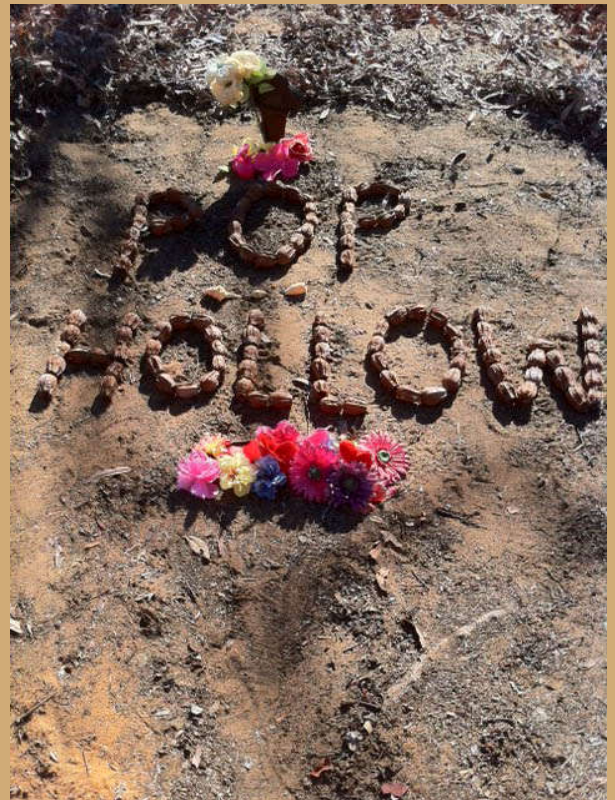
Notice.
THE PARTNERSHIP hitherto existing between C. HENRY and J. HOLLOW, junr., as General Storekeepers, carrying on business under the title of HENRY and HOLLOW, has, this day, been DISSOLVED by mutual consent.
Dated this 11th day of June, 1874.
C. HENRY,
JOSEPH HOLLOW, JUNR.
Witness—James F. Anderson. 362 87

Mr. Joseph Hollow, an old resident of Golden Gate, died at the hospital on Thursday night last (says "Croydon Mining News" December 2). He was 78 years of age. He was brought in from the Gate at the beginning of the week in a very weak condition. Prior to coming to Croydon, Hollow had been mining on Charters Towers and other northern fields. He was born in Cornwall.

Carpentaria. He was to die there in 1918, he never returned to Victoria. My father's family, the children of his son Alfred, grew up not knowing what had happened to him, they knew he had gone to Queensland and hypothesised that he may have had a family in Queensland. Little did they know that his second family had been closer to home. Joseph's death in Queensland was discovered after his grandchildren, my father's generation, had all passed away.

My sister June and husband Ron visited Croydon in outback Queensland in 2011 and found his grave in the local cemetery. It is unmarked but they did put a temporary mark on it as can be seen in the photo below.

June and Ron found a record of his admission to the local hospital in 1907 suffering from heat stroke. This is just two years after he was reported at the time of his father's death as living in Charters Towers. This was a very harsh environment to live in, probably alone. To live to age 77 shows he had a strong constitution. The fact that he had his own grave suggests he had money to provide for that.



Joseph Hollow grave C273 Croydon Qld

What happened in El Dorado?

From local newspapers we can tease out what happened in El Dorado. Maria Wilkinson's husband was Charles Wilkinson a local publican Wilkinson's Union Hotel was quite a large one. An advertisement for the hotel includes these claims.

"Wines , spirits and ales of the best brands, First class accommodation for travellers. Stabling. Billiards! A beautifully decorated theatre with first class scenery; also one of the finest pianos in the district. Professionals ought to visit this theatre before engaging any other."

On Charles Wilkinson's death Maria must have lost all of this. The local papers show her struggle. In May 1874 she is before the Police court for selling liquor without a license. In June '74 she pleads with the local council to reduce her rate charge from £25 to £10 arguing as a widow she was unable to pay the £25. In December of 1876 and January of 1875 she in the local court again claiming money owed from another local family on behalf of her daughter Catherine. She claimed that she had an arrangement with the family and for

EL DORADO POLICE COURT.
 January 13th, 1878.
 (Before Mr R. Pitcairn, P.M., and Messrs J. Hollow, J. Cook, and W. Ward, J.P.'s.)
DEBT.
Maria Wilkinson v J. Robert: £8 15s, wages. Plaintiff, a girl about 11 years of age, deposed that she engaged to live with Mrs Robert on the 4th December, 1874, and was to get 2s 6d per week wages. Mrs Wilkinson, mother of plaintiff, deposed that she was present when the agreement was made. The money had not been paid, and when she (witness) went to the Big Hill to defendant's place she found the child not clean, and looking neglected. Before the agreement was made, witness had arranged to pay Mr Robert for the keep of the child. This terminated when the arrangement was made on the 4th December. For the defence, Mr J. Robert stated that he knew of no such agreement. Mrs Robert said she took the little girl out of kindness. She did not receive her from Mrs Wilkinson, but from Mrs Bartie. Never agreed to pay wages, but had done the best she could for the child. (Receipts were produced to show that witness had bought shoes when wanted.) Mr Pitcairn said the Bench believed Mrs Robert's statement. Case dismissed.

Catherine to live there and get a wage of 2s6d per week. The court dismissed her claim.

Maria Wilkinson was next in court when her three youngest children were brought before the court as destitute children. Note that Joseph Hollow senior was on the bench for this case as he was in other cases involving Maria Wilkinson. We cannot assume he knew of his son's relationship with Maria Wilkinson, although in a small town we could imagine he may well have. The young twins were given the name Henrington (not Herrington as in the newspaper report) which was Maria's maiden name. She did not name the children's father in registering the children's birth. Joseph's name was given in the registration documents when the children were put in care.

These events must have caused great troubles in the Joseph's family. When Joseph left El Dorado is not clear. Presumably he had already left when Maria faced court. I have found no evidence that Joseph ever came back to El Dorado, in 1905 when his father died he is mentioned as living at Charters Towers in Queensland.

The two children, Arthur and Esther do not appear to have had any family. Arthur died in Geelong in 1939 and I have found no record of him ever being married. Esther married Arthur O'Leary in 1924 but I have found no children of the marriage. She died in 1946 and is buried in the St Kilda Cemetery.

Who looked after Joseph's three boys on his departure is unclear. The family's belief is that their aunts stepped in and looked after them. In 1877 Alfred has his name in the paper getting a prize at the Beechworth Church of England Sunday School. This would indicate Alfred may have been living in Beechworth. It would be too far away for him to be worshipping there and it is C of E not Wesleyan or Methodist which was the chosen place of worship for the Hollows in El Dorado. Alfred's uncle, Alfred Charles Hollow, lived in Beechworth. Perhaps he was with him although unlikely as he was not married until 1878 and it was to be a brief marriage.

The family belief is that Alfred may have been brought up by his grandparents Joseph and Jane. We know Joseph was still active with the El Dorado school around the time the boys would have been students there. Alfred was listed as being qualified there in March 1882. The school rolls for that era are not available unfortunately.

The fact that Alfred and Joseph stayed in mining may reflect who they were brought up by. Alfred was pictured as a workmate of Ned Visick who married Alfred's aunty Caroline Oates. Ned Visick went on to be a mine manager in Rutherglen. The same mine that Alfred worked in when living in Rutherglen. So it may be the boys' upbringing was shared by the Oates family. I have found no such connections for the youngest son Joseph. Perhaps it was him who was brought up by his grandparents.

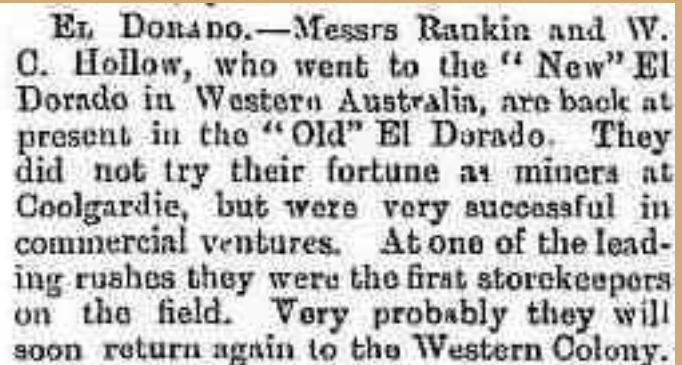
EL DORADO POLICE COURT. — On Wednesday, before Messrs Hollow and Ward, J.P.'s, three destitute children—Robert Wilkinson, five years, and Arthur and Esther Herrington, eight months, were brought before this court by Constable Ward, who deposed that from information received he visited the house of the mother, Mrs Wilkinson, and found the family in a miserable state; the mother was in a very weak condition, and there was nothing for the children to eat; sometime ago he had collected upwards of £3, and had given it to a reliable person to provide provisions; the residents had also sent food, until it had become a burden; he had communicated with the inspector in Beechworth, and the mother had been sent to the Ovens District Hospital. Dr Walker deposed that he visited the family, and found the mother suffering from low fever; she was half-starved, the only thing in the shape of food in the place being some crusts of bread. The Bench decided to send the two youngest children to the Royal Park and the eldest to Sandhurst, for seven years each.

Ovens and Murray Advertiser 15 January 1876

The other son, William, became a shop keeper. He was too young to be influenced by his father's brief stint as a shopkeeper in 1872-74 but he did work with Charles Rankin who was married to his aunty Emily Hollow. (See the 1894 newspaper report below). Perhaps Emily and Charles brought up William and that was the influence that moved him to be a shopkeeper.

Two of the boys, Alfred and William stayed in El Dorado well into adulthood and were close. Alfred gave away the bride at his brother William's marriage in 1901. The bride, Flora Cameron, had lost her father in 1890.

The other son, also named Joseph, went to W.A. in the late 1890s as a gold prospector; his story is provided separately.



Ovens and Murray Advertiser 21 April 1894

Finally the other siblings

Charles Hollow had left home by 1868. He is listed as an engineer living at Newtown in Beechworth. The title engineer possibly means he was an engine driver, perhaps on the railways. Later Charles became a stationmaster with the Victorian Railways and was the stationmaster at Golden Square in Bendigo before moving to Melbourne. In April 1878 he had married Ann Fleming at El Dorado but she was to die on January 1st 1879 after a long illness, according to her obituary. Charles married again in 1885 to Margary Candy. They had a marriage of 39 years but did not have any children.

The remaining child Lucy married in 1877 to a local clergyman Lewis Evan Thomas but almost immediately there was sadness, a child, Lewis, was born in 1877 but died within the same year, and early the following year Lucy's husband died also, he was only thirty two and had been in Australia just four years.

It may be that Lucy along with her parents, Jane and Joseph Hollow senior, were responsible for bringing up the sons of Joseph junior. Much later in 1899 Lucy married a local miner turned farmer, Anthony Allan.

Epilogue

When we follow the story of the first three generations of our Hollow family in Australia several themes follow the generations. Many of these themes too are clearly visible in the fourth and fifth generations of our family.

- Community participation and sense of duty.
- Mateship together with family alliances.
- Sport, a continuing theme.
- Outdoor living. In each of the first three generation Hollows spent an appreciable part of their lives under canvas. Sometimes this stretched to pretty much their whole adult life.

I am sure there are other themes too that have a resonance through our family.