

# Gold in Victoria



## PLACE NAME CHANGES

Ballaarat => Ballarat	
Bendigo => Sandhurst => Bendigo	
Charlton => Chute	
Delhi => Maryborough	
Fiery Creek => Beaufort	Mt William => Ararat
Four Mile Flat => Avoca	Ovens Goldfield => Beechworth
Indigo => Chiltern	Simson => Maryborough
Mclvor => Heathcote	Tarrengower => Maldon
Mt Alexander => Castlemaine	Upper Ovens => Buckland River
Mt Korong => Wedderburn	Warrandyte => Andersons Creek

## TIMELINE

- 1836** Port Phillip District (Victoria) opened for settlement, governed by NSW
- 1840** Count Paul de Strezelecki reported gold discovery in Victorian Alps
- 1845** Gold found at Ballarat
- 1847** Melbourne jeweller bought apple shaped piece of gold from shepherd
- 1848** Another jeweller bought gold from Thomas Chapman, starting rush in 1849
- 1849** Many left for Californian goldfields
- 1850** Squatter William Campbell found gold at Clunes & later received government reward
- 1851** Hargraves found gold near Bathurst, causing 1st NSW gold rush - exodus of people from Melbourne to Sydney
- June 1851** Committee offered £200 reward for discovery of payable gold within 200 miles from Melbourne
- 1 July 1851** Colony of Victoria separated from NSW
- July 1851** Gold found at Clunes, Anderson's Creek (Warrandyte) & Mt Alexander (Castlemaine) beginning rushes
- Aug 1851** Gold found at Daylesford & Buninyong, opening up Ballarat goldfield rush
- 1 Sep 1851** Edict: No person in Victoria permitted to dig, search for, or remove gold on or from any land, whether public or private, without first taking out & paying for a gold licence
- 19 Sep 1851** 1<sup>st</sup> Ballarat gold commissioner arrived, announcing new regulations. An attempt to boycott gold licence suggested, but diggers, eager to get to work, quickly paid their 30 shillings/month
- Oct 1851** Gold discovered at Bendigo
- May 1852** Eureka Lead at Ballarat East gold field discovered
- 14 Aug 1852** Miners dispute at Bendigo escalated to riot involving more than 150. Calls for more police on diggings
- 1852/1853** Many new gold areas discovered
- 13 Jun 1853** Diggers at Bendigo protest licence fee, sign petition
- 28 Jul 1853** Anti-licence meeting held at Castlemaine, suggested British flag be replaced by a diggers' flag
- Jul 1853** LaTrobe resigned as Governor
- Aug 1853** Protest meetings at Bendigo, Castlemaine, Ballarat & Eureka. Bendigo miners demand reduction of licence fee - banners & shots fired. Governor agreed to suspend September licence fee pending review by Committee
- Aug/Oct 1853** Bendigo's *Red Ribbon Movement* demanded reduction of licence fee to 10 shillings else they would choose to be arrested & cause overcrowding of prisons
- Nov 1853** Government announced licence fee of £4 for 6 months, £8 for 12 months, reducing tension
- 1854** Large numbers of Chinese arrived on goldfields
- 13 Mar 1854** Hundreds clashed in dispute between English & Irish at Ballarat
- 20 Mar 1854** Chinese diggers at Ballarat wounded by knives & guns
- 22 Jun 1854** New governor Sir Charles Hotham inherited bankrupt treasury, apathetic civil service, & untrained & undisciplined police. Ordered weekly licence hunts to increase colony's income
- 26 Aug 1854** New governor visited Ballarat to inspect gold fields, received great welcome
- 5 Sep 1854** Bendigo petition called for abolition of licences, democratic representation, land sales
- 13 Sep 1854** Governor increased inspection of licences to twice weekly instead of once monthly, infuriating miners
- 7 Oct 1854** James Scobie killed at Eureka Hotel after argument with its owner Bentley. Diggers believed Bentley guilty but due to his friendship with authorities, he was not convicted
- 16 Oct 1854** Bank of Victoria, Ballarat, robbed of £15,000
- 17 Oct 1854** Diggers protest Bentley's acquittal, urged more thorough investigation
- 21 Oct 1854** McIntyre & Fletcher arrested for destroying Eureka Hotel. Diggers agreed to pay exorbitant bail
- Nov 1854** Bentley, Farrell & Hence convicted of manslaughter of Scobie
- 28 Nov 1854** Reinforcements from 12<sup>th</sup> Regiment arrived at Ballarat
- 29 Nov 1854** Eureka flag unfurled at meeting of over 10,000. Diggers burn their licences in protest against licence tax
- 3 Dec 1854** Eureka Stockade battle at 3.30 am. Diggers attacked by 296 well armed police & military. 120 miners fought 20-min battle. 22 diggers & 7 military killed. Over 120 prisoners marched at bayonet point to police camp
- 4 Dec 1854** Martial law declared at Ballarat
- 8 Dec 1854** 13 diggers charged with High Treason

- 9 Dec 1854** Martial law repealed. Colonial Secretary resigned & later replaced  
**2 Jan 1855** Recommencement of licence hunt  
**Feb 1855** Jury found diggers not guilty of treason  
**Mar 1855** Gold Fields Commission suggested replacing gold licence with export duty on gold & introduction of Miner's Rights, giving right to mine & to vote  
**30 Jun 1855** Miner's Right replaced Gold Licence  
**14 Jul 1855** Miners elected to local boards  
**10 Nov 1855** Ballarat's Peter Lalor (Irish & leader of rebels) & John Humffray elected to Legislative Assembly

**KEY BOOKS** (*references are SAG library references unless otherwise indicated, Mitchell is Mitchell Library*)

- A Valley of the Finest Description, by Margaret Oulton (*ie local histories*) C4/352/1  
Ballarat Directory 1869, compiled by John Windle (Mitchell DSM/ 982.2/ C)  
Ballarat & District: pioneers & old residents directory 1837-1855, by Clare Gervasoni C5/90/10  
Dickers Mining Records, eg Vol X-X11 (1868-1870) (Mitchell DSM/Q622.05/D)  
Digging for Gold, by Helen Doxford Harris C2/10/3  
Directory of Melbourne (*includes eg Ballarat & Bendigo*) (& other directories) C8/1/1866-1867  
Family History Research in the Central Goldfields of Victoria, by Dorothy Wickham (Mitchell 929.3945/3)  
Grave Reflections, by Jan Davidson & Helen Doxford Harris (& other cemetery transcriptions) C7/11/6a  
Pioneer Profiles, some brief stories of some of Victoria's early settlers, by Betty Meckel Vols 1-3 C5/95/2,3,4  
Select Documents in Australian History, 1851-1900, by Clark, C.M.H. (Mitchell N994.03/17)  
(*SAG has book by same author for 1788-1850*)  
Where they lie: early burials on the Bendigo goldfields, by Annette O'Donohue C7/11/12

**KEY CDs**

- Cemetery Transcriptions, created by AIGS  
Far East Gippsland Pioneers Register Pre 1920 C5/90/CD.1  
Index to Victorian Goldfields Hospital C8/15/CD.1  
Inquest index Victoria 1840-1985 C7/25/CD.1  
Police Gazette : Victoria C3/83/CD.<year> (where <year> is 1864 – 1888)  
Victorian Mining Accident Index C3/27/CD.1

**KEY MICROFICHE**

- Bendigo Advertiser, index to funerals, inquests, obituaries etc 1854-1880 VIC-NWS-IND:12, 17, 32, 41, 52, 61  
Port Phillip & Victoria (GPO) directories 1839-1867 VIC-DIR:1

**KEY WEB SITES**

- ANU Gold Documents (*from Victorian newspapers*) – [www.anu.edu.au/andc/res/aehist/gold/index.php](http://www.anu.edu.au/andc/res/aehist/gold/index.php)  
Australian National Maritime Museum – <http://www.anmm.gov.au/site/page.cfm?u=893>  
Australian Newspapers (beta) <http://ndpbeta.nla.gov.au/ndp/del/home>  
Aus-Vic-Goldfields (*Rootsweb list*) – <http://lists.rootsweb.com/index/intl/AUS/AUS-VIC-GOLDFIELDS.html>  
Ballarat & District Genealogical Society Inc – [www.ballaratgenealogy.org.au](http://www.ballaratgenealogy.org.au)  
Bendigo Goldfields Petition 1853 – [www.slv.vic.gov.au/collections/treasures/bendigopetition/](http://www.slv.vic.gov.au/collections/treasures/bendigopetition/)  
eGold Electronic Encyclopedia of Gold in Australia – [www.egold.net.au](http://www.egold.net.au)  
Eureka! The Rush for Gold – [www.sl.nsw.gov.au/discover\\_collections/history\\_nation/gold/index.html](http://www.sl.nsw.gov.au/discover_collections/history_nation/gold/index.html)  
Helen Doxford Harris website – <http://members.ozemail.com.au/~hdharris/>  
Heritage Council, Golden Heritage – [www.heritage.vic.gov.au/Learning-education/Victorian-Goldfields.aspx](http://www.heritage.vic.gov.au/Learning-education/Victorian-Goldfields.aspx)  
Ian Potter Museum (Gold & impact on cultural life) – [www.art-museum.unimelb.edu.au/victorian\\_gold/](http://www.art-museum.unimelb.edu.au/victorian_gold/)  
National Library of Australia Digital Collections – [www.nla.gov.au/digicoll/](http://www.nla.gov.au/digicoll/)  
Newspapers from the Central Victorian goldfields – [www.csu.edu.au/research/jcentre/reports/report198.pdf](http://www.csu.edu.au/research/jcentre/reports/report198.pdf)  
Public Record Office of Victoria – [www.access.prov.vic.gov.au/public/PROVguides/PROVguide023/PROVguide023.jsp](http://www.access.prov.vic.gov.au/public/PROVguides/PROVguide023/PROVguide023.jsp)  
*Some records are held at Ballarat Archives Centre & some in North Melbourne.*  
Royal Historical Society of Victoria – [www.historyvictoria.org.au](http://www.historyvictoria.org.au)  
SBS GOLD! – [www.sbs.com.au/gold/](http://www.sbs.com.au/gold/)  
Society of Australian Genealogists – [www.sag.org.au](http://www.sag.org.au)  
Times (London) – [www.sl.nsw.gov.au/databases/athome.cfm](http://www.sl.nsw.gov.au/databases/athome.cfm)  
Victoria Government Gazettes (1836-present) – <http://gazette.slv.vic.gov.au>  
Victorian Births, Deaths & Marriages – <http://online.justice.vic.gov.au/ots/home>  
Victorian Cemeteries online – [www.coraweb.com.au/cemetaus.htm#vic](http://www.coraweb.com.au/cemetaus.htm#vic)  
*Also* [www.ozgenonline.com/aust\\_cemeteries/vic/index.htm](http://www.ozgenonline.com/aust_cemeteries/vic/index.htm)  
Victorian Collection of Historical photographs – [www.nre.vic.gov.au/virtualexhibition/Mines/Index.htm](http://www.nre.vic.gov.au/virtualexhibition/Mines/Index.htm)  
Victorian Divorce Index 1861-1900 – [www.macbeth.com.au/indexes/divsearch.html](http://www.macbeth.com.au/indexes/divsearch.html)  
Victorian Index to Divorce Cause Books 1861-1924 – [www.prov.vic.gov.au/publications/documents/05335-P0.asp](http://www.prov.vic.gov.au/publications/documents/05335-P0.asp)  
Victorian Place Names Index – [www.australiagenweb.org/archive/vicplacenames.php](http://www.australiagenweb.org/archive/vicplacenames.php)  
Victorian Rural Cemetery records (1836-1988) on Ancestry – [www.ancestry.com.au/search/db.aspx?dbid=1266](http://www.ancestry.com.au/search/db.aspx?dbid=1266)  
Victorian State Library – [www.slv.vic.gov.au](http://www.slv.vic.gov.au) (*see also Electronic genealogy resources & Rare Manuscripts online*)