

Gold Mines Hotel Historical Timeline

Compiled with the assistance of the Bendigo Historical Society

1832 (approx.) – David Chaplin Sterry is born in Suffolk England

1853 – Sterry emigrates to Australia - arrives in Bendigo aged 21 – Sterry was a sailor with an adventurous spirit – led him to seek his fortune in gold

1856 – Sterry begins his involvement in Quartz Reef mining – early diggers focused on alluvial mining as gold extraction from quartz required extensive machinery and deep mine shaft excavation

1857 – Recognising the profitability of quartz mining Sterry formed Luftsmann, Sterry & Company to begin quartz reefing on the rich Victoria Reef (among the richest & deepest mines in Bendigo)– Sterry was one of the pioneers of Quartz Reefing – building considerable wealth and a small empire over several decades from his Victoria Reef investments

1857 – The timber Ironbark Gully Hotel was operating at the head of the Ironbark Gully on the Gold Mines Hotel site under publican / proprietor James Fraser & opened with a ball on November 12th 1858 (This is said to have later burnt down) – The hotel is listed in the 1859 Bendigo District General Directory as the Iron Bark Hotel

1859 – David Chaplin Sterry (27) marries Jane Moss (30) - a Welsh born immigrant and widow (previously married to Sea Captain Samuel Moss) with two children (George Hunt & Robert Jones)

1860 (May 23) – Sterry applies for the publican's licence of the Ironbark Gully Inn

1860 (June 21) – The publican's licence is granted to Sterry for the Gold Mines Inn

1861 – With the profits from Quartz Reefing Sterry builds the original single storey weatherboard Gold Mines Hotel opposite the Victoria Reef Mining district – Sterry forms the New Victoria Company with Luftsmann, Burrows & Gibbs – Sterry becomes a prominent shareholder in other Bendigo mines including the New Chum & Catherine Reefs – he remains a director of his own company as well as a Director of the Bendigo Goldfields Company until six months before his death

1861 – 1864 – Sterry and his wife have four more children (Elizabeth Jane who dies at birth, John Chaplin, David William & Alfred Ernest)

By 1868 – Sterry has acquired and cultivated a total of 10 acres in Myers Creek (now known as Maiden Gully) building the single storey family home and two storey stable complex of hand-made bricks and local sandstone in two stages in 1872 and the 1880s. The property at 51 Andrews Road Maiden Gully is now known as Byronsvale (previously Turand). Eldest son John never marries & by 1914 is living at Turand & works as an agent, prospector then speculator according to electoral rolls.

1872 – Sterry commissioned the Architectural firm of Vahland & Getzchmann to design and construct a double storey stucco brick hotel (the adjoining two storey stone building which houses the kitchen was part of the original single storey Gold Mines hotel) The hotel was known for the large number of peacocks that roamed the surrounding gardens (these were very noisy & later removed as the neighbourhood grew)

1870s – Steery is viewed as a champion of miners’ rights & becomes Chairman of the first Miner’s Accident Association – successfully negotiating settlement of a threatened Miner’s strike in 1879 when mining companies reduced wages – the 1.25 Acre garden of the Gold Mines Hotel is laid out and planted by Sterry with surrounding land used at various times for pigs, chickens, stables, an orchard & two dams with a small house called the “Cooks Cottage” constructed for the servants to live in.

1876 – Sterry is elected to the Bendigo City Council as a representative of the Sutton Ward serving as Mayor from 1878 – 79 as well as a member of the Marong Shire Council – With farming, stock & horse breeding interests Sterry was one of the founders and President of the Bendigo Agriculture Society for 24 years – as Mayor Sterry held the highly successful Juvenile Industrial Exhibition which funded the erection of the Alexandra Fountain at Charing Cross

1881 – Sterry was presented to Prince Albert Victor & Prince George (sons of the then Prince & Princess of Wales) who inspected the crushing works at his New Chum United Company with the State Governor & later attended a royal ball as a notable guest

1882 – Sterry becomes the member of the Victorian Legislative Council (State Parliament) for the Northern Province & later on the Legislative Assembly (Upper House) in 1890 where he became the Member for the newly formed electorate of South Sandhurst from 1889 up until 1904 when he retired due to ill health – his investments by this stage included a street of houses in Park Street Melbourne which he reportedly lost gambling

1887 - Jane’s second son Robert is licensee for a short time then moves to the Northern Territory and dies of heatstroke in 1888

1896 – Son David William Sterry (known as William) marries Bertha the daughter of a German immigrant family who farmed in Bullock Creek – David and Bertha live on the large Sterry family property in nearby Myers Creek

1901 (May 9) David Chaplin Sterry Esquire and his wife Jane attend the opening of the first Parliament of the Commonwealth of Australia as official guests

1904 – Sterry dies age 72 – The hotel is run for a time by tenants (The Russell family)

“During a long and useful public career, Mr Sterry made a great number of staunch friends, to whom the news of his death will cause sincere regret. Of an unassuming and genial disposition, he was held in high esteem by all classes, and his memory will long survive in the recollection of the public of this district as one of the sturdy pioneers, who did much to lay the foundations of the city’s wealth and prosperity.”

Bendigo Advertiser Tues 27 Sept 1904

1905 - Jane applies for & is granted the Gold Mines Hotel licence aged 74

1909 – Son David William and wife Bertha are now living at the hotel with their four children (David Chaplin, Robert William, Agnes Jane & Sydney Francis who dies aged 16 – Agnes is the only child to go on & have children)

1918 – Jane dies aged 89 – the hotel licence is transferred to Bertha Sterry aged 43 as Jane’s son David William Sterry is no longer living with the family

1920 – Agnes leaves Domestic Arts School age 14 to help her mother Bertha run the hotel

1923 – Bertha and David William Sterry are now living apart – David signs the hotel over to Bertha as sole proprietor - the family never speak to him again

1935 - Agnes marries Edward Esposito – they go on to have three daughters – Glenda, an unnamed daughter who dies at birth and Karen

1941 – Agnes becomes sole owner and licensee of the Gold Mines Hotel on the death of her mother Bertha after buying out her siblings David & Robert

1955 – Following a car accident involving both her parents (whilst visiting their eldest daughter Glenda at University) Karen leaves school at 11 years to help Agnes run the hotel

1980s – The hotel closed and was used solely as a family home

1986 - Agnes dies age 80

1990 – Karen sells the hotel which is now listed with the National Trust’s Victorian Heritage Register as well as the Historic Building Council of Victoria

1991 – Sale falls through & the hotel is leased to Vagg & Carter

2002 – The Gold Mines Hotel is sold to Ray Condello & Grace Brown after being held by the one family for 130 years – The new owners re-establish the hotel as a premier regional destination for fine dining, regional wine & craft beer, entertainment & the arts

2010 – The Walduck family purchases the Gold Mines at Auction rejuvenating the hotel, garden & courtyard - reinstating the property as a key landmark in the Historic Victoria Hill precinct. With its signature stucco brick and gracefully proportioned ornate verandah and balcony the property is recognised as Vahland’s most elegant hotel design.

2014 – Karen Esposito dies age 70 – Karen Esposito’s Estate was auctioned on April 17th 2014 including antiques and artefacts from the Gold Mines Hotel held by descendants of the Sterry family for over 140 years - As lovers of fine art – the family had amassed an extensive art collection of prominent Australian Artists including works by Charles Blackman, Pro Hart, David Boyd, John Perceval, Brett Whiteley, Colin Parker & John Borraack

2015 – Owner Rick Walduck enlists Dr Gary Hill from Minerva Heritage with support from the City of Greater Bendigo’s Heritage Restoration Loan Scheme to complete major restoration works of the Gold Mines Hotel façade including repairs to the floor and structure of the upper verandah and recasting and reinstatement of broken cast iron lace panels and damaged sections of the parapet using traditional materials.

2018 - McKean McGregor Real Estate welcomes the opportunity to present the Gold Mines Hotel to a new generation of potential purchasers

*The Gold Mines Hotel, Marong Road, Bendigo
(previously known as Inglewood Road, Bendigo Road & Alley Street)*