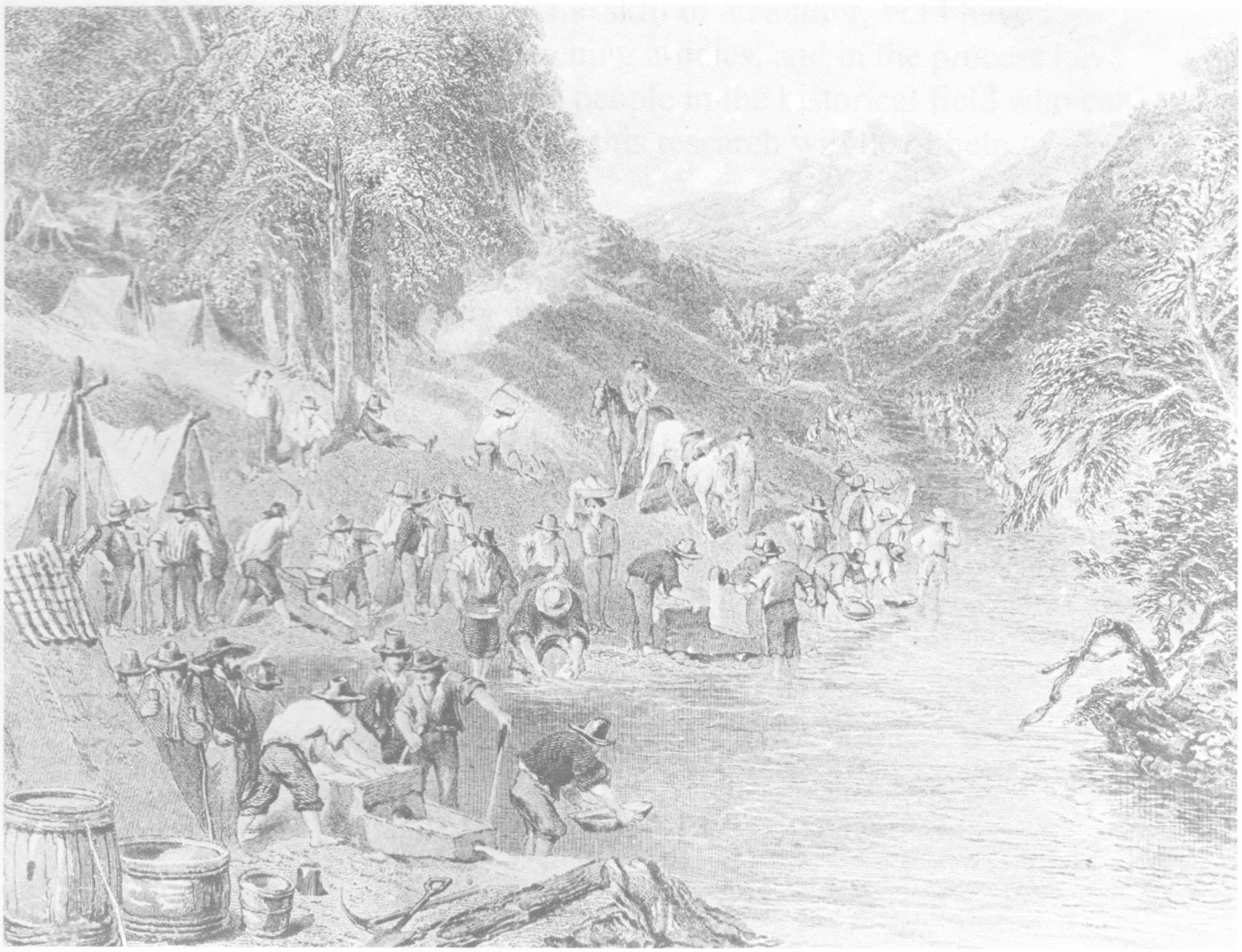
Brown Hill Our Golden District

Eureka Goldfields Town That Grew to a Suburb of Ballarat.

CHURCHES



BROWN HILL – OUR GOLDEN DISTRICT

EUREKA GOLDFIELDS TOWN THAT GREW TO A SUBURB OF BALLARAT

This is an attempt at collating some of Brown Hill's history. There are many excellent publications on Churches, Schools and of course gold, but this is a smaller jotting of facts that have been outlined in Newspapers and various articles to bring together items that I hope you will be interested in, and also to help discover new items of Brown Hill's illustrious past.

Unfortunately, I have not the skill of an author, but I have thoroughly enjoyed researching articles, and in the process have met some wonderful gifted people in the historical field who can bring history to life. I hope this research will be of help to others.

Special thanks to Jo Styles, Dot Wickham, Tom Reidy and Ed Bawden, and naturally my family that have allowed me the time to carry out this research.

Research by: Margaret McKenna
17th September 2004.

CHURCHES

SAINT ALIPIUS CATHOLIC CHURCH:

The first diggers licence was issued in Ballarat in September 1851 and by October 1851 the Catholic Church had been established in Humffray Street North outside the boundaries of the Ballarat East town limits, but in the midst of the Eureka Gold Fields.

This was the first Church in Brown Hill and was called St.Alipius. It was situated on Humffray Street North after Bradbury Street.
The Brown Hill Hotel was situated at 385 Humffray Street North, and the house opposite on the corner of Bradbury and Humffray Street North is numbered 326 Humffray Street. You then proceed to the house on the next corner, which is Dwight's the boot maker and which was also the Tollgate at 328 Humffray Street North, then the Warrenhiep Creek, which now flows under the road and comes into the Yarrowee Creek. On the other side of this Warrenhiep Creek is the site where it is believed that Saint Alipius' first church started
An extract from "From tent to Parish complex" by Fr.T.J.Linane, Diocesan Archivist in the Courier states:

The Catholic story of Ballarat is as old and as glamorous as the finding of gold in August 1851.

The 19th October of that year marks the celebration of the first Mass at Brown Hill.

The celebrant Father Patrick Dunne, instructed by his Vicar, Dr.P.B.Geogheghan followed his congregation and the waggon trail through Bacchus Marsh to the bustling El Dorado where in Dunne's own words there were members of Parliament, lawyers, doctors, and men of every class in society"

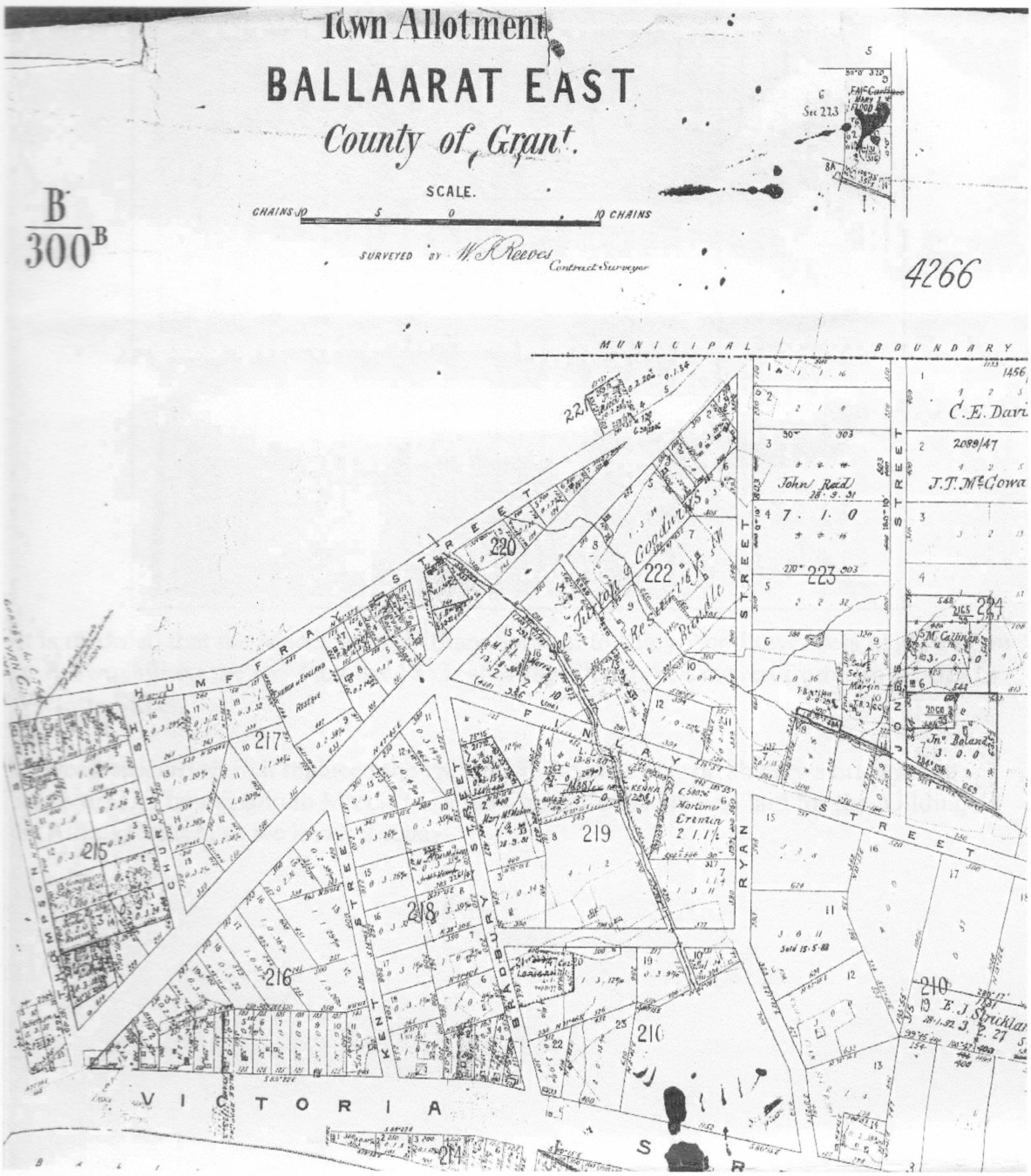
Extract from "100 Years of St.Alipius" in the Courier by T.J.Linane, Diocesan Archivist:

> Downing apparently squatted on the first Mass site on Brown Hill, which was as he relates 'close to the toll gate'.
> He also relates that the
> 'first summer rains of February 1853 drove him out', hence his transfer of tent and utensils to the St.Alipius site of today.

The Warrenheip Creek, which flows beside the site were they held their First Church service, was apparently one of the causes of floodwaters rising rapidly and the site becoming untenable for them. The tollgate was on the other side of the creek, at number 328 Humffray Street North. The site where the Church was is commonly referred to "as where Marnell's house is". (Years ago when a new priest arrived at St.Alipius, they would be taken to Brown Hill, to visit the site where the first mass had been held.)

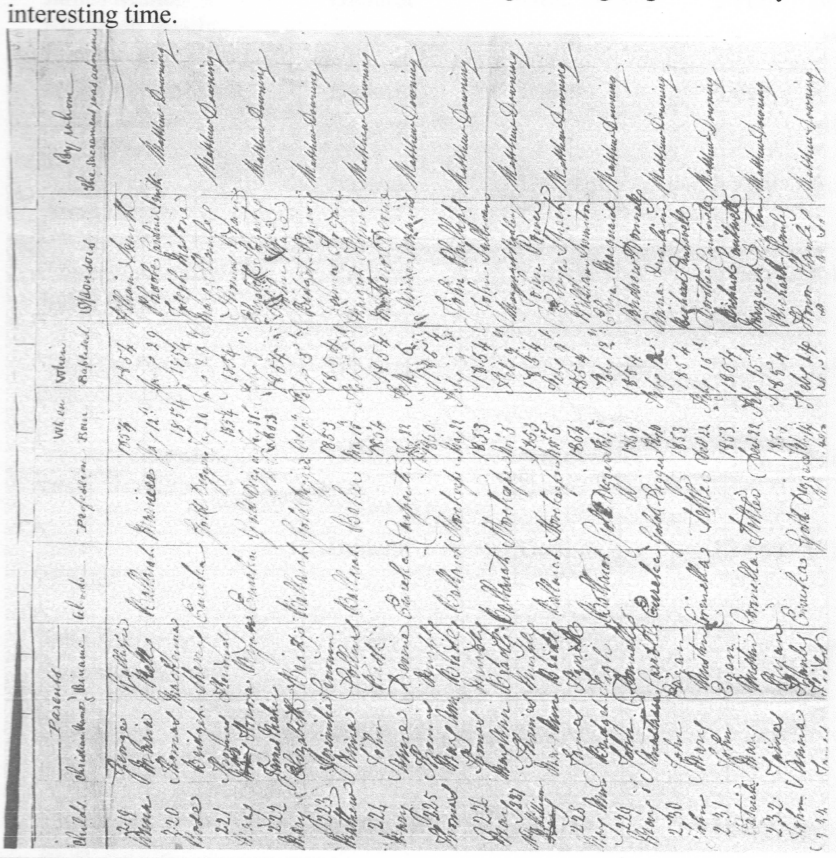
"So in a setting assigned by Mr.C.Carey to the south side of Humffray Street and about a hundred yards east of the Brown Hill Hotel, Dunne said Mass for a congregation of 300 raw-boned diggers (with very few women and children) while prize-fights were in progress not far away."

1871 Map with kind permission from the Ballarat Public Records Office.
The sites of the three Churches in Brown Hill were all in Humffray Street North.
The Methodist Church on the Corner of Thompson & Humffray Street, St.Mark's Church of England between Church Street (now Brophy St.) and Bradbury Street, with St.Alipius Catholic Church just past Bradbury Street.
You will notice the dotted line of the original presumed site where the figure 220 is.
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The Church moved to Victoria Street in March 1853 and the first Catholic school started in that year. The Victorian Gazette of 1858 sets aside the land for their Church "Patrick Kean and Joesph Henry Dunne Trustees of ground set apart at Ballarat for the use of Roman Catholic Church (Act.16, Vic.No.28.)

Baptisms at Saint Alipius Church - at the beginning of 1854.
Rev.Matthew Downing officiating. In mid 1854 Fr.Downing was appointed to Keilor and Fr.Patrick Symth took over the reigns of Ballarat East, St.Alipius Church, with the dark clouds of Eureka brewing, it was going to be a very interesting time.



It is recorded that the Marriage of William Sansom to Mary Ann Lawry was held in a tent at Brown Hill on the 15th October 1853, after the Church had moved from Brown Hill to Victoria Street.

A weatherboard church replaced the tent in 1857 with a new presbytery started at the same time. Then finally in March 1873 the foundation stone was laid for the building of St.Alipus Church, as we know it today.

BAPTISMS – St.Alipius 1854

Child	Parents	Abode	Profession	Date	Sponsors
Anna	George Gallagher Maria Kelly	Ballarat	Marniesa	29 Jan	William Smith Phoebe Smith
Mary	Thomas Kennedy Honora Ryan	Eureka	Gold digger	29 Jan	Joseph Malone Mary Hanley
Mary	James Maher Elizabeth Beady	Ballarat	Gold Digger	5 Feb	Bridget James Hogan
Matthew	Jerimiha Ceoremin Anna Collins	Ballarat	Baker	5 Feb	Margaret Hynes Matthew Dermie
Mary	John Brisk Anne Devine	Eureka	Carpenter	6 Feb	Annie Adams
Thomas	Thomas Murphy Mary Bradley	Ballarat	Storekeeper	9 Feb	John Phillips
Mary	Thomas Murphy Mary Bradley	Ballarat	Storekeeper	9 Feb	John Sullivan
William	Thomas Murphy Mary Bradley	Ballarat	Storekeeper	9 Feb	Eliza Spech
Mary	James Bridget	Ballarat	Gold digger	12 Feb	Eliza Macquaid
Mary	John Connelly Anastasia Carroll	Eureka	Gold digger	12 Feb	Ana Quinlain
John	John Egan Mary Austin	Corinella	Settler	15 Feb	Dorothea Cantinele
Patrick	John Egan Mary Austin	Corinella	Settler	15 Feb	Margaret Austin
John	James Ryan Anna Hanley	Eureka	Gold digger	14 Feb	Thomas Hanley
Jane	James Field Jane	Ballarat	Auctioneer	18 Feb	Mary Jones
William	William Johnstone Mary	Ballarat	Stonemason	19 Feb	Marg Hurley
Joseph	John Kemp Mary Clarke	Eureka	Gold digger	5 Mar	Patrick Burns Marg Sculley
Denis	Denis Murphy Jane Patterson	Warrenheip	Sawyer	5 Mar	Jane Trainer Ellen Flemmings
Garres	Patrick O'Brien	Eureka	Gold digger	12 Mar	William Murphy

	Ellen Rattigan				Margaret Murphy
Patrick	Michael Callanan Catherine Mulligan	Eureka	Gold digger	14 Mar	Patrick McQuerny Ellen Quinn
Isaac	James Osbourne Margaret Tobin	Ballarat	Gold digger	15 Mar	Mary Wright
Michael	Keran Ryan Bridget Malone	Eureka	Gold digger	24 Mar	John Brenan Catherine Burns
Denis	Denis Keys Mary Manning	Ballarat	Gold digger	25 Mar	John Burns Mary Bolger
Mary	Denise White Elizabeth Marken	Ballarat	Farmer	26 Mar	Michael Dunn Maryanne Silvey
John	William Ramley Bridget Moloney	Eureka	Gold digger	26 Mar	Michael Flannagan Margaret Hayes
John	William Jones Catherine Burke	Eureka	Gold digger	26 Mar	Andrew Williams Mary Grimes

Sacrament was administered by the Rev. Fr.Matthew Downing 1854.



Photo showing Warrenheip Creek and over the other side of this is presumed to be the site were the Catholic Chapel was situated in Humffray Street North.



Marnell's House, presumed to be on the site of where the Catholic Chapel was in Brown Hill in 1851. To the right of this photo is the Warrenheip Creek, which now proceeds to flow under Humffray Street and into the Yarrowee River.

Wedding – c.1915 (Photo courtesy of private collection)

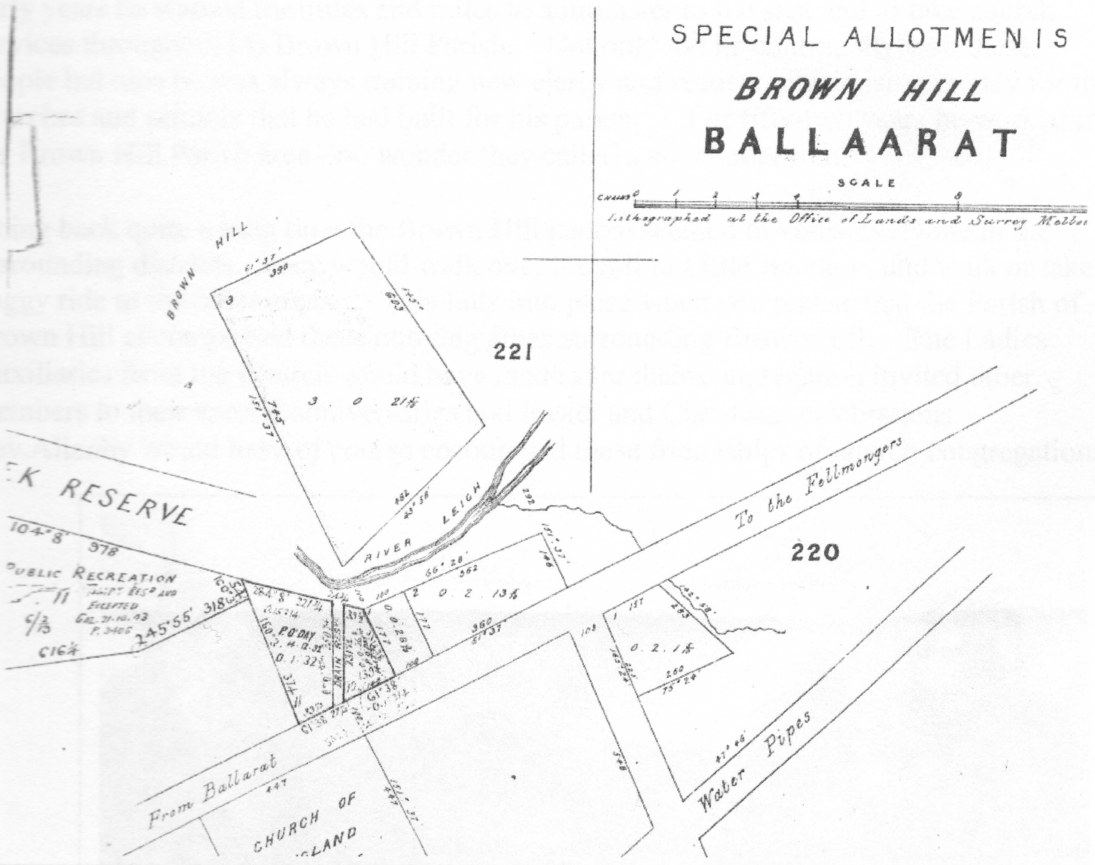


ST.MARK'S CHURCH OF ENGLAND.

A Church Reserve was gazetted in the Victorian Gazette[5] for St.Mark's Church of England in 1862. It was quite a large reserve with the frontage in Humffray Street North. Tenders were let for the construction of a wooden church in April 1862.

In 1858 the Church of England nominated the Rev.Searle as Minister for Ballarat East, having previously been at St.Mark's, Collingwood. The Minister started with sermons in St.Paul's School, where services were regularly held until a more suitable building for the district could be built. In September of 1857 a Public Meeting was called of the parishioners regarding the construction of a Church for the district. This meeting was to be held in St.Paul's Schoolroom, Bakery Hill, for electing trustees. A note on the bottom stated that "only subscribers of One Pound and upwards will be entitled to vote". Signed by George McCleverty Honorary Secretary on the 11th September 1857.

Brown Hill Special Allotments Map – showing site granted to the Church of England.
Notice that the river behind the Brown Hill Hotel is called the
"River Leigh" and Water Street is only named the "reserve for water pipes".
With kind permission from Ballarat Public Records Office.
Reproduced with the permission of the Keeper of Public Records, Public Record Office Victoria, Australia.



The wooden Church was opened in 1862, which was the year the reserve was officially made available. Tenders were called to erect the Church in April 1862 and in the same month; William Lakeland was also calling for tenders to build a two storey brick building in Victoria Street including a cellar with the architect being the prominent Mr.Castelli. One of the remarkable things about St Mark's Church was that it was the main Church of the Brown Hill Parish. The churches included in this Parish were St.John's Bungaree - (Warrenheip Junction), St.David's Warrenheip, St.Jame's Little Bendigo, St.Luke's Pootilla and St.Peter's in Musk Creek.
By 1900 the Parish also included Glen Park, Yendon, Lal Lal, Elaine, Dunnstown, Invermay and Barkstead. There was also a church at Springs Diggings (Glen Park), which then came into the Brown Hill Parish.

This amazing feat of the Brown Hill Parish was mostly contributed to the then Curate Christopher Gibson Allanby. The Brown Hill Church started in 1862 under the auspices of St.Paul's Church of England in Humffray Street South, Ballarat East (Bakery Hill) and then in 1866 Rev.Allanby was stationed at Brown Hill and the parsonage was built on the corner of Victoria Street and Ryan Street. Victoria Street does not go under the Caledonian Bridge anymore and this part of Victoria Street is now known as the Old Melbourne Road. This building is still on this site. There was also a street called after Rev.Allanby, which went from Bradbury Street and into Ryan Street close to where the Parsonage was sited. This remarkable man later became the Archdeacon Allanby when he administered to the Mallee and Loddon areas, as well as the Brown Hill Parish.

Rev Allanby must have worn out quite a number of shoes as the story goes that in the early years he walked for miles and miles to administer to the sick and to take church services throughout his Brown Hill Parish. Not only did he continually visit these people but also he was always training new clergy and readers, plus raising money for the churches and schools that he had built for his parish. For fifty-two years he worked in the Brown Hill Parish area - no wonder they called a street after him.

Going back quite a long time the Brown Hill people seemed to know everyone in the surrounding districts. They would walk over the hill to Little Bendigo, and walk or take a buggy ride to the other areas. This falls into place when you realise that the Parish of Brown Hill encompassed these outlying areas surrounding Brown Hill. The Ladies Auxiliaries from the Church would have made sure their congregation invited other members to their special anniversaries and Easter and Christmas celebrations.
Rev.Allanby would have of course encouraged these friendships of church congregations.

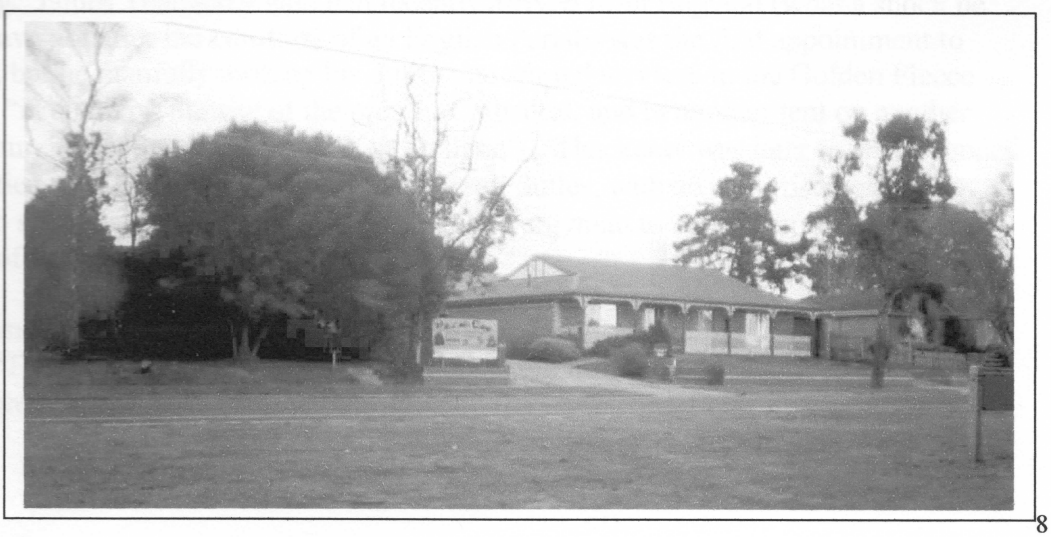


Photo of St.Mark's Church – View from 326 Humffray Street North. In the left-hand corner is the old stables (Handsome Cab era), next block is McKenna's Grocer Shop (you can see the verandah posts) and the next building is St.Mark's Church of England. On the opposite side is Callinan's house and at the back is what was called "The Brown Hill Flat", which is now the Brown Hill Reserve. This was approximately 1946-47 and prior to the Brown Hill Hall being built. Kiosk of the Brown Hill Pool is shown on the bend of Humffray Street on the right hand side, which was previously a Tram shelter in Sturt Street.
(Photo courtesy of Tom McKenna)



In 1835 the Church of England appointed its first Bishop to the newly established "See of Australia". It wasn't until 1966 that the first Australian-born Archbishop was installed. The name "Church of England" was at this time changed to "Anglican Church of Australia".

The greatest portion of the Eureka gold fields and Ballarat township community belonged to the Church of England, and the first permanent appointment to Ballarat was not until 1854 but they did hold a service on the site which later became the land designated for the building of Christ Church Cathedral in1851 with roughly two to three hundred people attending. James Thackeray who had recently arrived from England (what a shock he would have got after the comforts of an English Parish) was the first appointment to Ballarat, but he manfully took up his duties and started services in the Golden Fleece Hotel – "in a tent on the site of the present Cathedral, and in another tent on another future church site, that of St.Paul's East Ballarat". Thackeray was later to be suspended from duties with Rev.John Potter taking over all duties, with an advertisement being placed to state that the Rev.Potter was the only clergyman to act as a minister of the Church of England in Ballarat.

In September 1854 a notice was placed in the paper as follows –

"The Members of the Church of England are informed that a building has been provided in Armstrong Street, Ballarat, to be used as a Place of Worship until the

Parish Church is built and will be opened for Divine Services morning 11a.m., afternoon 3p.m.
Persons desirous of procuring sittings can apply to A.L.Lynes, Esq., Dr.Stewart, or the Rev.J.Potter.
Those who are anxious to have the rites of Baptism, Marriage and Burial regularly performed by the duly authorised Minister of the Church of England, or who wish to have the visits of the Clergyman in sickness or under any other circumstances, are requested to signify the same to Rev.Potter at the Parsonage, who is the licensed Clergyman of the Parish and for the issuing of Marriage Licences.
A school House and place of Worship for the accommodation of the population of the gold field will be provided as soon as possible."

The Rev.Robert Cummins was the next appointment to St. Paul's and unfortunately the Danish Mining Company was granted a lease to mine under the land granted to the Church. An appeal was lodged against this but it was not withheld. The "gold fever" was paramount and the mining leases took first preference. Later on this was the lease that produced the Welcome Nugget.

"In 1862 a new brick church was completed and opened" "After four days of continuous rain in April 1864 the mine-ridden ground underneath the church caved in, and St.Paul's broke in two". The church was in such a bad state that the authorities had to demolish the original church. Within a little over 12 months time a new church had been built and all that remained of the first church, the original church tower which now stands behind St.Paul's Church, has been left as a monument for all to see. The new church was officially opened on April 23, 1865. As early as 1859 they were holding a Bazaar, which was held in the old schoolroom, to raise funds to build a Parsonage for St.Paul's Church, this Parsonage was built on the corner of East and Victoria Streets.

Francis Bradbury, who later became a Licensee of the Brown Hill Hotel, arrived in Australia on the "Ganges Khan" disembarking in July 1853. His occupation on the shipping list was described as 'builder'. His wife Eliza Wadcock and Francis had the happy occasion of being present at their son's weddings where Daniel Bradbury married Jean Graham on the September 25, 1873 at St.Mark's Church, Brown Hill.
Renovations to St Mark's Church were undertaken in 1877, with the Church being installed with gas lighting. Two years later Archdeacon Allanby went to England to convalesce from an illness. Members of all churches in the Parish attended a send off including E.J.Strickland and John Hosking representing St.Mark's Church, Brown Hill. Rev. Allanby returned from England in 1880 with regained health. In July 1912 St.Paul's, Ballarat, held a service to celebrate Archdeacon Allanby's golden jubilee of service and dedication to the church and congregation. He retired in March 1914.

On this site, the Church held their first school, which later became a church hall behind the church. The next hall was approximately twice the size of the small wooden church. This hall deteriorated and was removed in the 1940 -1950.'s. (It is believed that this was the old St.Stephen's Church in Glen Park which apparently had ceased by 1902.)

After the 2nd World War a R.A.A.F Hut was moved to the back of the Church to be used as a Hall and Sunday school premises. This Hall was also used for the Brown Hill Blind Auxiliary Meetings in the 1950-1965 eras, and also for Euchre (card) nights for fund-

raising for a new public Hall for Brown Hill community from 1957-1966. The Hall was also used for other various functions by Church and local groups.

The St.Mark's Church Reserve also had a Tennis Court. This was approximately in the middle of the land designated as a Church Reserve. In the 1960's the bitumised surface of the court could still be seen. The Church of England and the Methodist Churches both had teams in the District Church Pennant Teams.

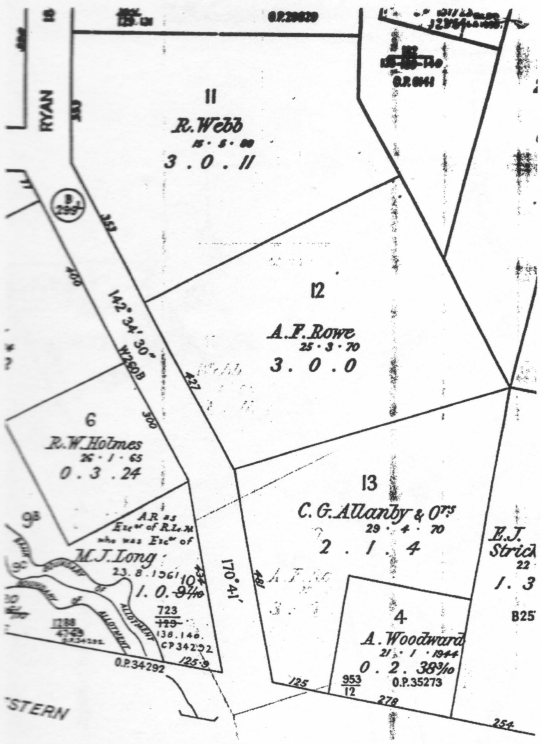
Church services were discontinued in 1985 and the building sold for removal with the hall being demolished. The Church did hold a Centenary and with some luck these notes might eventually turn up in the future for us to piece together some interesting aspects of St.Mark's.

The site of St.Mark's Church now has units and houses built on it. The main entrance to the church reserve is the driveway to Heritage Court. Opposite Heritage Court is part of the Brown Hill Park Reserve, and further up is the Brown Hill Hall next to the Brown Hill Swimming Pool. At the back in Water Street there is only one home built behind the Church Reserve, the rest is still vacant from buildings.



Photo courtesy of private collection.

Map showing site of St.Mark's Church of England Parsonage.
On the corner of Victoria Street and Ryan Street.
(Old Melbourne Road and Ryan Street.)



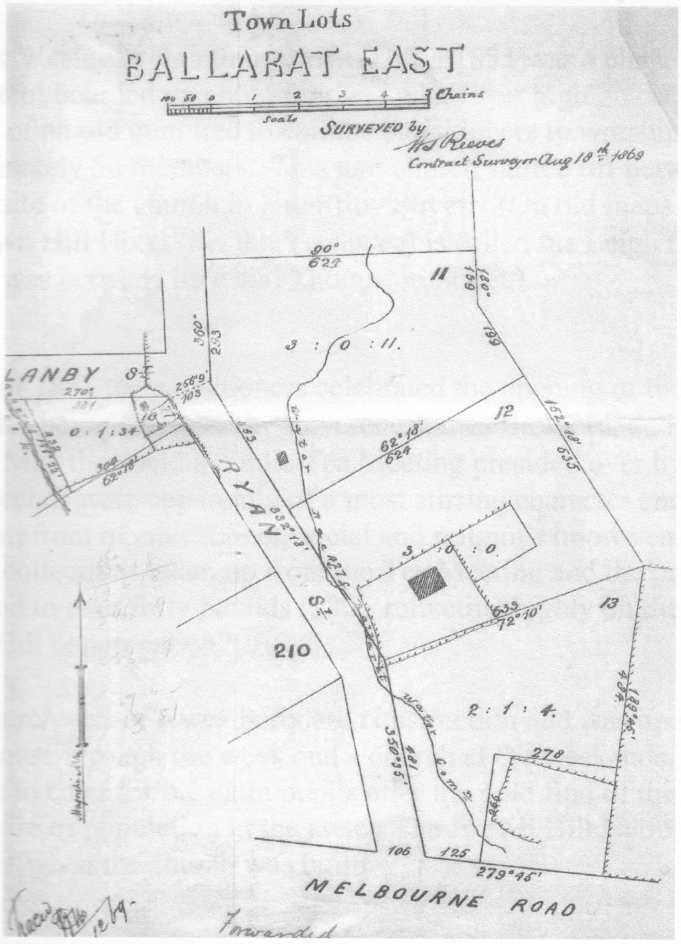
Map of Victoria & East Street – site of St.Paul's Parsonage. Reproduced with kind permission of the Keeper of Public Records, Public Record Office Victoria, Australia.



Photo of St.Mark's Church of England Parsonage, Ryan Street.



Map – 1869 – Showing site of St.Mark's Parsonage, corner of Ryan Street and Melbourne Road, and Allanby Street coming into Ryan Street.



1869 Map -
Reproduced with the permission of the Keeper of Public Records, Public Records Office Victoria, Australia.

THE METHODIST CHURCH

The Wesleyan Church is shown on the Ballarat Map of 1861, on the corner of Thompson Street and Humffray Street North. In the Gazette of 25th May 1858

"His Excellency the Governor, with the advice of the Executive Council, has been pleased to approve the appointment of James Oddie, Joseph Doane, William Couch, James Francis and Joseph Huddart to be trustees of the Ground set apart for the use of the Wesleyan Church"

What well-known identities these people were. Doane, an architect who designed many of the Methodist Churches, was also Mayor of Ballarat in 1864.

In the Gazette of 1861 –

"Grants of Land without purchase to Trustees for Wesleyan Church purposes Ballarat - The site of Brown Hill, Ballarat, set apart in 1858".

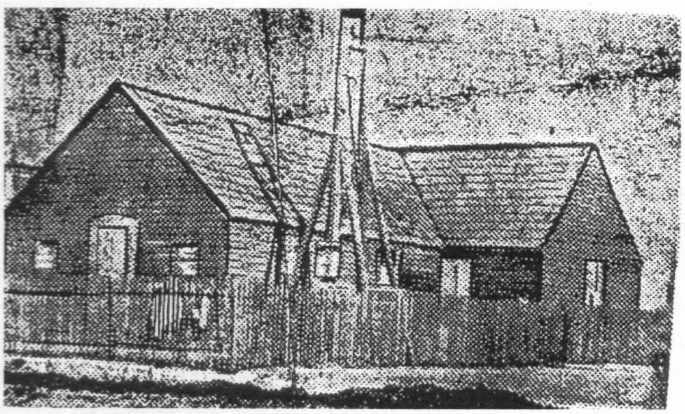
One of the first Methodist Churches in Ballarat East was apparently the Gravel Pits Wesleyan Church in Barkly Street in 1852, which was originally, where the Ballarat East Town Hall Gardens were, and it then moved to further up Barkly Street.

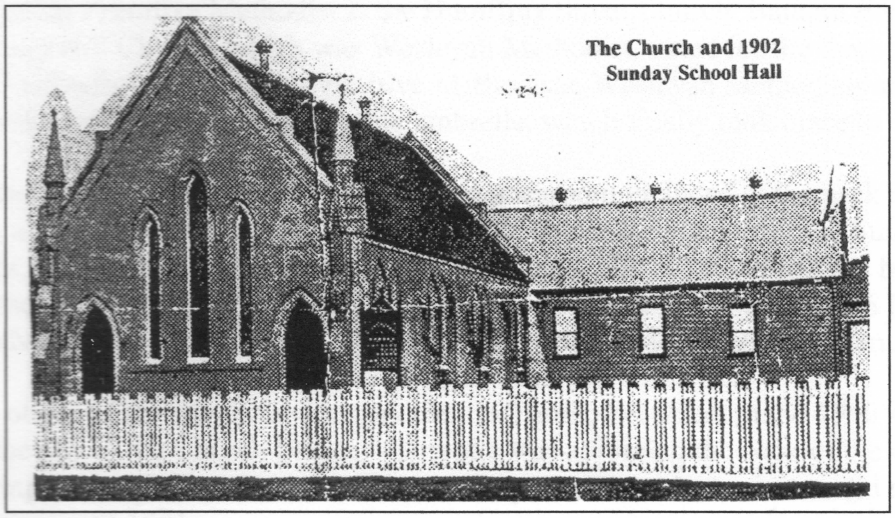
The first Wesleyan church in Brown Hill in1855 was a chapel that consisted of a large framed tent boarded up about four and a half feet high on each side, with a bell hanging in the fork of an old gum tree to call the parishioners to worship. This was to cater for approximately 50 members. This tent church started off between the Leigh Creek and the present site of the church in Humffray Street. (On old maps of Ballarat the creek behind the Brown Hill Hotel (i.e. the Yarrowee) is called the Leigh Creek, so we know that the Church was between here and Thompson Street.)

In May of 1857 the parishioners celebrated the opening of their new church with two discourses being delivered by Reverend James Bickford, and Mr.William Youle, and on the 12th May they held a public Tea Meeting presided over by Joseph Attwood Doane. The speeches were apparently of a most stirring character encouraging their faithful to be in the forefront of educational, social and religious improvement. It was also reported that the collections taken up from the Tea Meeting and the previous Sunday services amounted to over forty pounds ($80), reflecting highly on the "pious liberality of the Brown Hill congregation".

This Church was of a weatherboard construction and was operated as a denominational schoolhouse through the week and a church at the weekends. A "T section" was added at the back to cater for the extra pupils after the gold find of the Caledonian Lead and thus an increase of population in the area. The Brown Hill National School was already in existence when the church was built.

The second Wesleyan Church building c.1857, showing the "T shape" with school being conducted there.





The Church and 1902 Sunday School Hall

In 1858 the foundation stone was laid for the Wesleyan Church in Ballarat, using a Golden Trowel. The handle that consisted of polished ivory was adorned at the end with a circlet of rose leaves carved in Ballarat gold. Below was a row of eight nuggets from eight different leads, and some fine specimens of quartz beautifully interlaced with gold. The blade was also of solid gold with more than 8 ounces of gold being used in this magnificent ornate golden trowel.

In 1863, the eighth Anniversary of the Brown Hill Wesleyan Church was celebrated, followed by the customary need of cups of tea and food. The speeches must have been outstanding as they were very happy with the amount in the collection plate. After ten speeches I am sure they were already for a fine tea. The receipts for the previous year had been fifty-five pounds with an expenditure of sixty-pounds, so the collection after the speeches was most welcome to the community.

In 1869 the congregation had obtained a new brick church, which was far superior to their humble beginnings, and now stands as a monument to their perseverance and dedication to their beliefs and ideals for the community that came to Brown Hill in the "gold rush" days. No mention was made in the newspaper of the day of a golden trowel being used for the opening of the Brown Hill church. Mr.George Smith laid the foundation stone and the building was completed by March 1869.

Ministers travelling around the circuit originally represented the Brown Hill Methodist Church. By 1869 they were included in the Ballarat East Zone, and by 1896 the different branches of Methodist, Wesleyan and Primitive Methodist's combined to form one strong faith. By 1924 the Neil Street Church became the head of the Ballarat East Circuit. The Churches included in the area were Neil Street, Mount Pleasant, Barkly Street, Brown Hill, Humffray Street, Little Bendigo, Gong Gong, Warrenheip, Bullarook, Invermay, the Orphanage, Wallace, Glen Park and Golden Point. This was similar to St.Mark's Church of England, with the parish being so far spread over the outlying areas; these parishioners became closer to Brown Hill residents than the Ballarat City area.

In the Ballarat Directory of 1894 under Wesleyan Churches the Barkly Street Church, Mount Pleasant and Golden Point are all mentioned as being built in the 1860's, and then under the heading Primitive Methodist is the Humffray Street Church, Ballarat East. In 1896 the Brown Hill Church, which was Wesleyan Methodist, voted for the three branches of Methodism, which was Primitive Methodists, Wesleyan Methodists and Bible Christian Methodists to come under the one umbrella, which finally took place in 1904.

A new Sunday School Hall was built in 1902, and a tearoom included at the back of the hall. What a boon to the mothers preparing afternoon teas and supper for the Sunday school events. The Sunday School Hall saw service until March 1990 when the building was demolished for other projects. This Sunday School Hall is listed in the 1906 Ballarat Directory as No.14 Thompson Street. By 1961 they had included a Kindergarten Hall.

The Church obtained the site of the Literary Hall in Thompson Street in the 1940's and this is now the site of the Church Manse. This site was adjoining the back of the church ground making it a very convenient asset, but the hopes of a resident minister did not come to fruition until 1961.

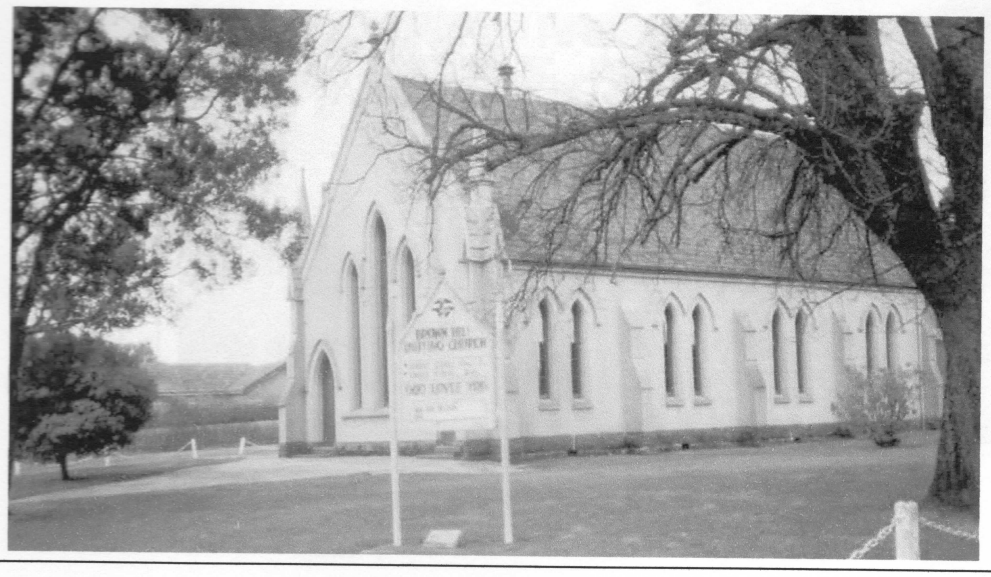
During the Centenary of the Church in 1969 the Gong Gong Church was offered to the Brown Hill Church. This was dismantled and reconstructed as a Hall at the back of the Brown Hill Church, and which is affectionally called the "Gong Gong Hall".

The church obtained a residential property next door in Humffray Street in 1964, and tragically, in November 1973, this house was destroyed by fire. This land is now used for what is probably Brown Hill's first off-street car parking.

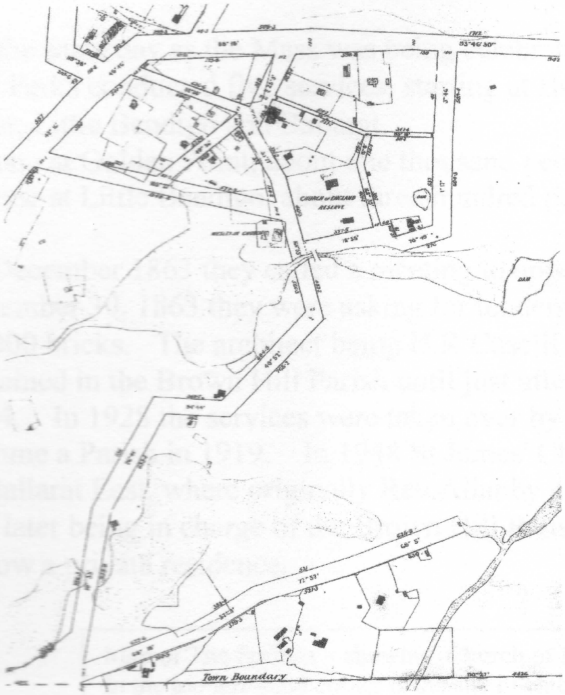
In 1977 they joined the entire Methodist Church, 85% of the Congregational Church and 65% of the Presbyterian communities to form the United Church. Therefore the Methodist Church in Humffray Street North is now known as the Uniting Church.

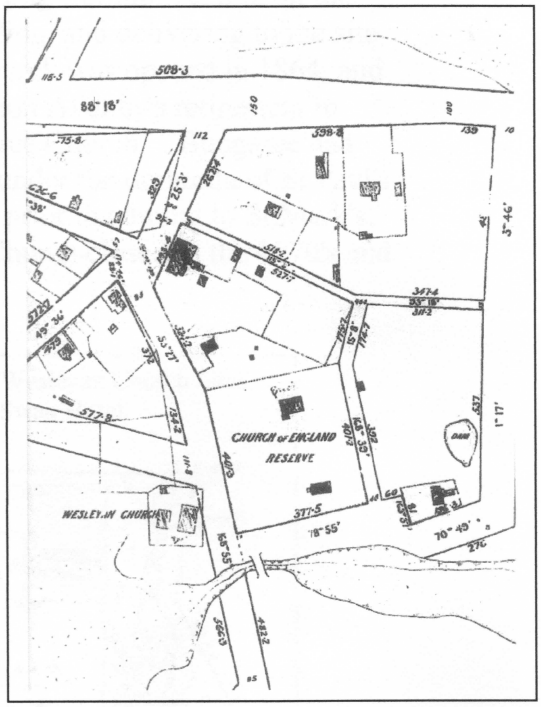
The church community then started a major project to refurbish and extend the church in 1981. The church from the outside has the same appearance but inside it faces the opposite way to its earlier direction. From Thompson Street it looks the same, but now there is an extension of the east side with the entrance to the Church through this foyer.

Photo of the present United Church at the corner of Humffray Street North and Thompson Street, Brown Hill.

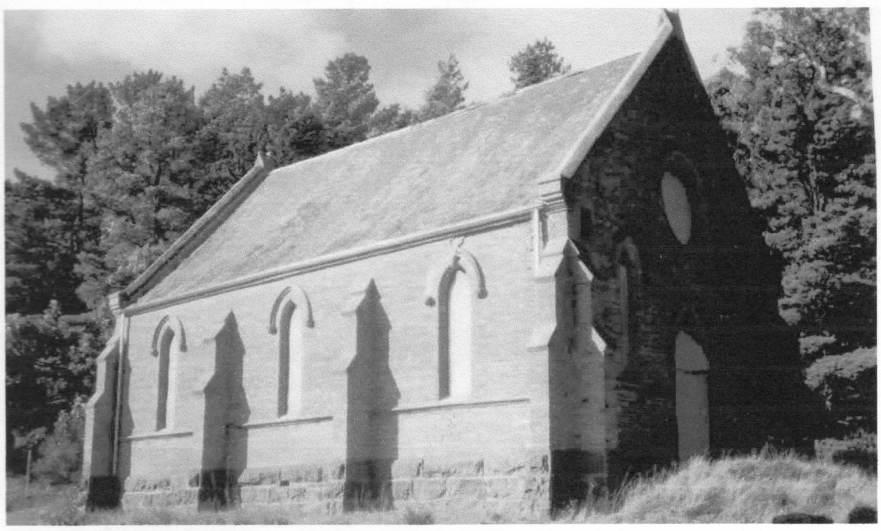


Map showing sites of Wesleyan and Church of England at Little Bendigo.





Wesleyan Church, Little Bendigo



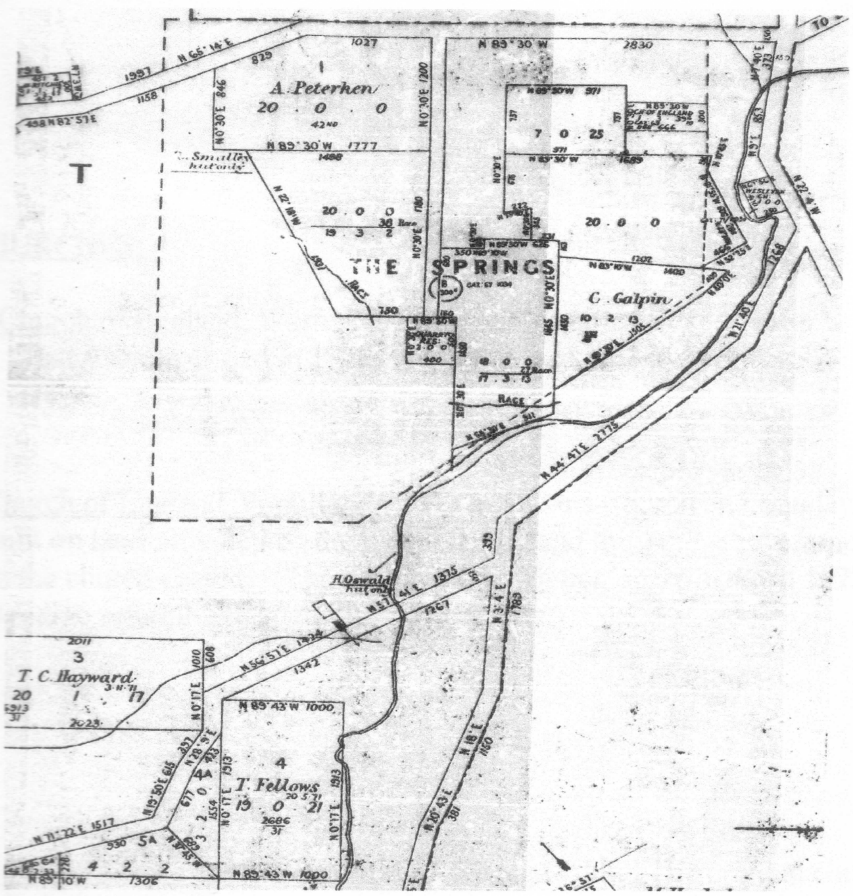
ST.JAMES CHURCH OF ENGLAND, LITTLE BENDIGO

On the same day as the Mass was being celebrated at Brown Hill, October 1851, Rev.Perks conducted five services, starting at Buninyong and continuing on to Golden Point, Little Bendigo and Ballarat.

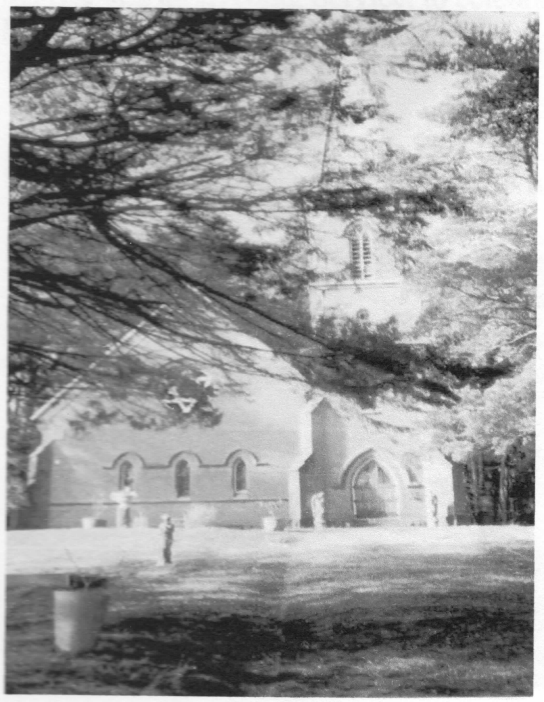
"one at Golden Point, about one thousand people present"
"one at Little Bendigo, about three hundred people attending".

In December 1863 they called a meeting to appoint a Building Committee, and on the December 30, 1863 they were asking for tenders for providing, and delivering to the site, 30,000 bricks. The architect being H.R.Caselli. This Church was opened in 1864, and remained in the Brown Hill Parish until just after Archdeacon Allanby's retirement in 1914. In 1928 the services were taken over by the Bungaree Church. Bungaree had become a Parish in 1919. In 1948 St.James' Church was under the umbrella of St.Paul's in Ballarat East, where originally Rev.Allanby had started, prior to coming to St.Mark's, and later being in charge of the Brown Hill Parish. This Church closed in the 1970's and is now a private residence.

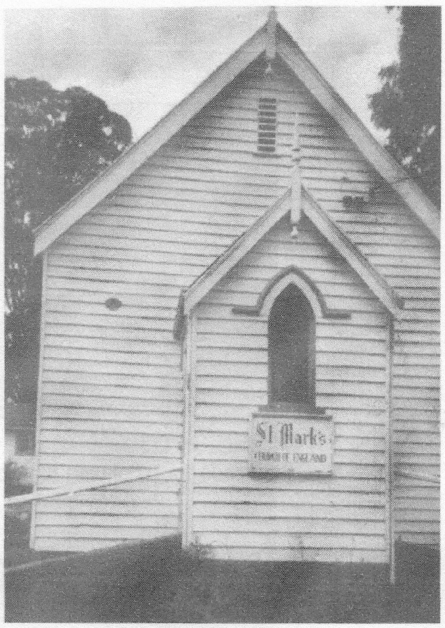
Map of The Springs – showing Church of England and Wesleyan Church Sites.
In the top left-hand corner is the site of Ritchie's White Swan Hotel.



St.James Church, Little Bendigo



ST MARK'S BROWN HILL



ST MARK'S CHURCH, 1984

OTHER CHURCHES;

St.David's, Church of England, Warrenheip. Services started in 1867 prior to the church being built. This Church closed in 1920.

St.Luke's Church of England, Pootilla. In 1871 St.Luke's Church and Sunday School Hall were built on land provided by the Lewis family and this land was returned to the family when the church ceased. They celebrated their centenary in April 1972 with the Bishop of Bendigo returning to attend the celebrations.

Humffray Street Primitive Methodist Church - Opened 1860. The original church is still standing and another new Church has been built on the reserve. This original church also had a tennis court on the corner of the allotment. (The new building next to the original church has been built by another denomination.) The first service for the opening of the Primitive Methodist Church was held on June 24,1860 with a Morning Service, Afternoon

Service and an Evening Service, to celebrate the opening of the Church followed on Monday with a tea evening.

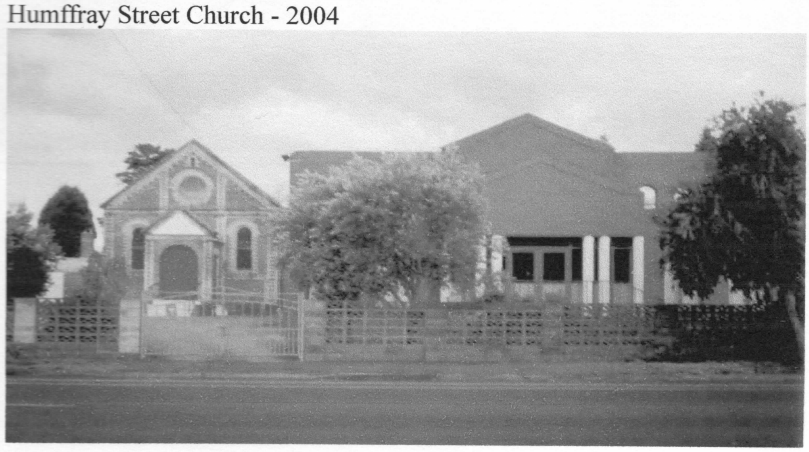
Methodist Primitive Church – Humffray Street North



A mention in the papers of a Primitive Methodist Church was made in September 1854, which goes on to state

"The Primitive Methodist Connexion intend opening a New Chapel on Bakery Hill, Ballarat, on the 16th September, when three sermons will be preached.
In the morning at 11 o'clock, and in the evening at 6 o'clock, by the Rev.M.Clarke, from Melbourne. In the afternoon at half-past 2 o'clock, by Mr.H.Bell. Collections will be made after each service in aid of the Church Fund.
Also on Monday, September 17th, a Public Tea Party will be held in the above chapel. Tea on the table at half-past 4 o'clock p.m. After which a Public Meeting will be held, and addresses delivered by the Rev.M.Clarke, Rev.Mr.Martin, Presbyterian Minister, and others.
Chairs to be taken at 7 o'clock.
N.B. – Tickets for Tea 2s.6d each, to be had of Mr.Hall, Boot Maker, Bakery Hill."

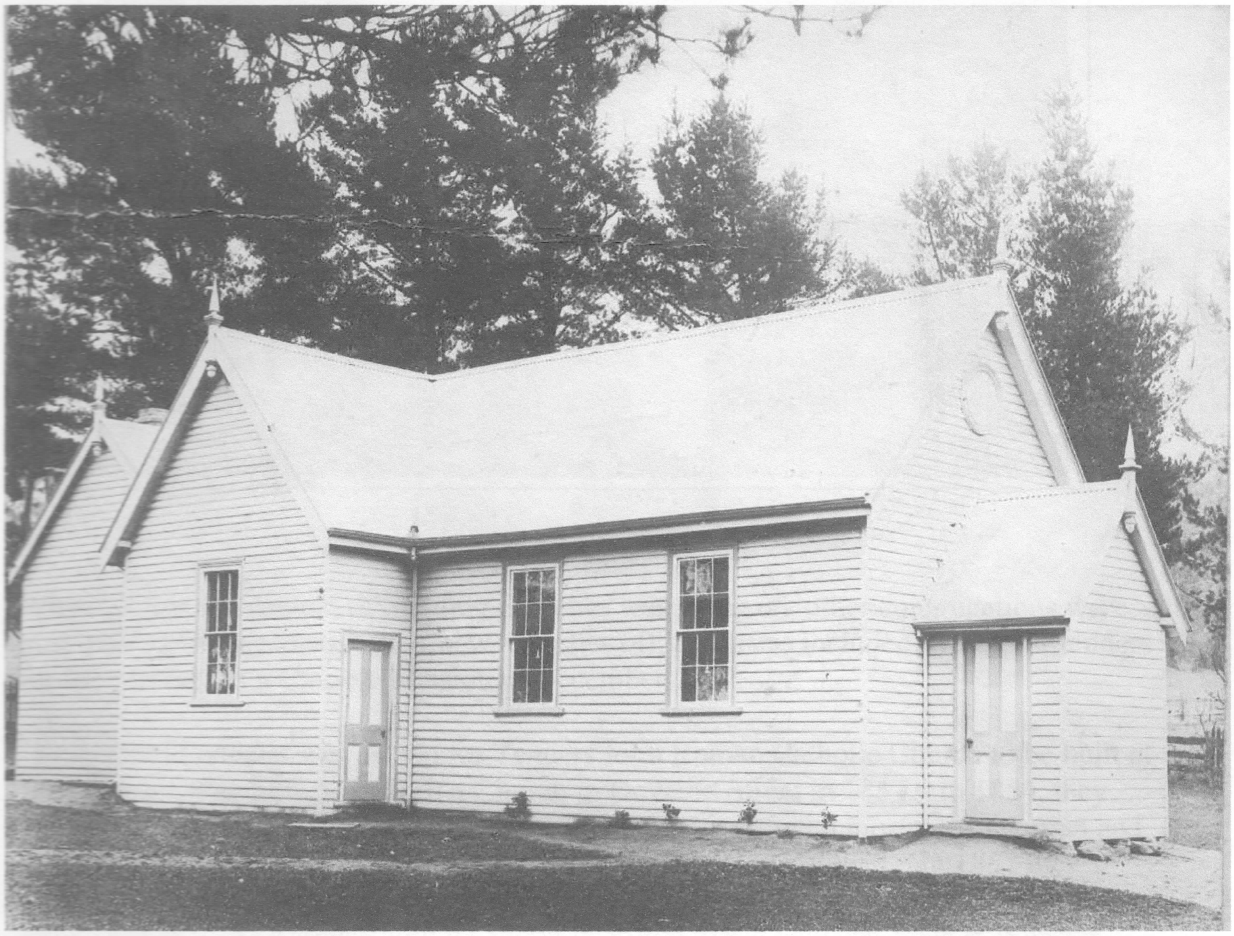
Humffray Street Church - 2004



Gong Gong Methodist Church opened April 1866 The District Temperance Movement held a meeting at the Wesleyan Chapel at Fellmongers in 1865.
The Church held its 50th Anniversary celebrations in 1910. This church was donated to the Brown Hill Methodist Church (now the United Church) when it closed, and is now used as the Gong Gong Hall.

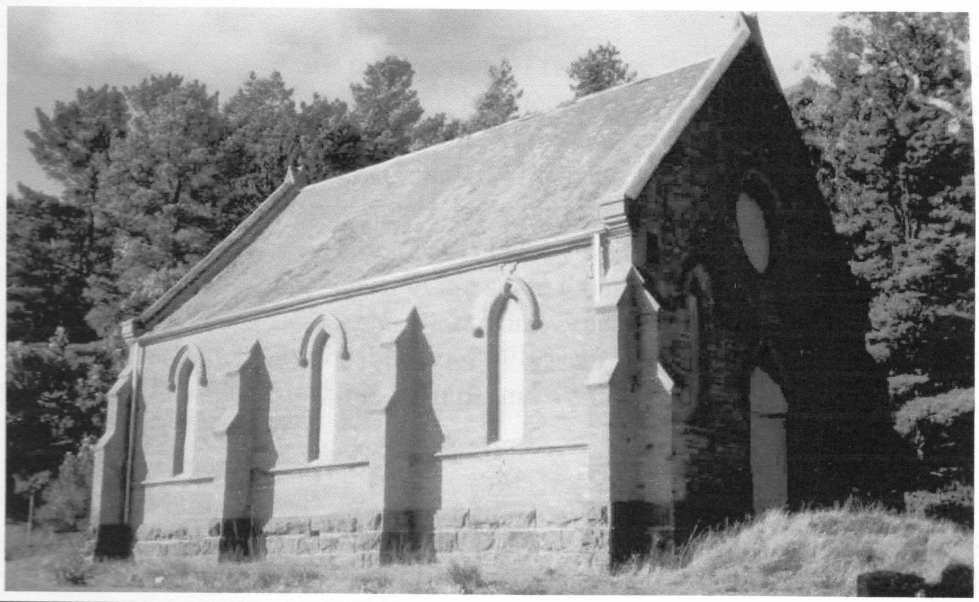
Photo of Methodist Gong Gong Church, which was set back from the Daylesford Road, on a street called Elizabeth Street, which joined up with Brewery Tap Road. Set-up on a slight hill, it made a lovely picture when coming into Ballarat along the Daylesford Road.

Photo of Gong Gong Churches 50th Anniversary. (Photo with kind permission of Norma Moulten, daughter of Rupert Wilson.)



Little Bendigo, Wesleyan Church opened 1866. (This is also shown on the 1861 Map of Ballarat.) Tenders were called for the erection of this Church on December 31, 1863, with Mr.Doane as the architect. In the same day's paper there was an advertisement for tenders for 30,000 bricks for the Church of England at Little Bendigo. Mrs.M.D.Morgan layed the foundation stone of a new Wesleyan Church at Little Bendigo as reported in the paper, March 15, 1865. The Building measured 40 by 25 feet, and the tender of Messrs.Clarke and Fraser was accepted for the price of Four Hundred and Five Pounds It was situated nearly opposite the Church of England, (which was erected several months prior) and followed in the evening with a soiree in the wooden building they then used as a place of worship. Their first church, the wooden building, was apparently in service by 1857.

Wesleyan Church, Little Bendigo



While all this excitement of building churches was going on, other congregations were busy raising money to start their new churches off, and these included calling for tenders for the erection of a Chinese Mission in December 1857.

Fr.Richard Fennelly was asking for Tenders for a Roman Catholic Church to be built at Buninyong. The Lutherans built a Church in Doveton Street in 1857. In 1854, they estimated that they had two thousand Lutheran believers of who most were German and by 1856 they were holding meetings at St.Paul's Church of England. In 1857 they erected a timber church at 204a Doveton Street South immediately north of their present brick church. The Baptists built a Church in Yuille Street between Mair & Webster Streets. The Baptists opened their Church with Divine Service on May 16, 1858, morning at 11 a.m., evening at half-past six with Rev.James Taylor, and in the afternoon at three p.m. with Rev.James Bickford. Collections of course were held at all three services to go towards the building fund.

Father Madden was also very busy for the Catholic Church. He was busy calling a meeting to appoint a committee "for the purpose of providing for the erection of a Church on the Reserve at the corner of Dawson and Sturt Streets". The article in the paper goes on to say that estimated cost of the erection of the naïve, the only portion to be at once proceeded with, is Five Thousand and Eight Hundred Pounds. The design being from Hansom of London, and the superintendent of the works is in the hands of Messrs.Dawden & Shaw, of Geelong. The erection of the Church on the reserve at the corner of Sturt and Dawson Streets was of course the church we now know as St.Patrick's Cathedral.

Ballarat being in the grip of gold mining everywhere it was quite appropriate that the Catholic Church came up with the idea of presenting a Gold Chalice to Bishop Gould on the laying of the foundation stone of the Cathedral in February 1858. "The chalice was of solid gold, weighing nearly 17ozs, and worth nearly One Hundred and Twenty Pounds".

The Wesleyan had a write up in The Star as follows:
"Tenders have been accepted for the erection of two new Wesleyan churches, one at Little Bendigo and the other at Mount Pleasant, Mr.Doane being the architect in both cases. The larger church is that at Mount Pleasant, which will measure 60 feet by 32 feet, with a height of 20 feet to the coved ceiling inside. The material of both churches is to be brick with cement facings, and the style, that widely various one generally known as Italian. The Little Bendigo Church will measure 40 feet by 25 feet, and its site will be on the northwest side of the English Church in the same locality. For the erection of the Little Bendigo Church the tender of Messrs Clarke and Fraser for Four Hundred and Six Pounds ($812) has been accepted, and for the Mount Pleasant Church the tender of Mr.Z.Batton for Seven Hundred and Eighty-Nine Pounds and Ten Shillings, the latter tender including fittings"

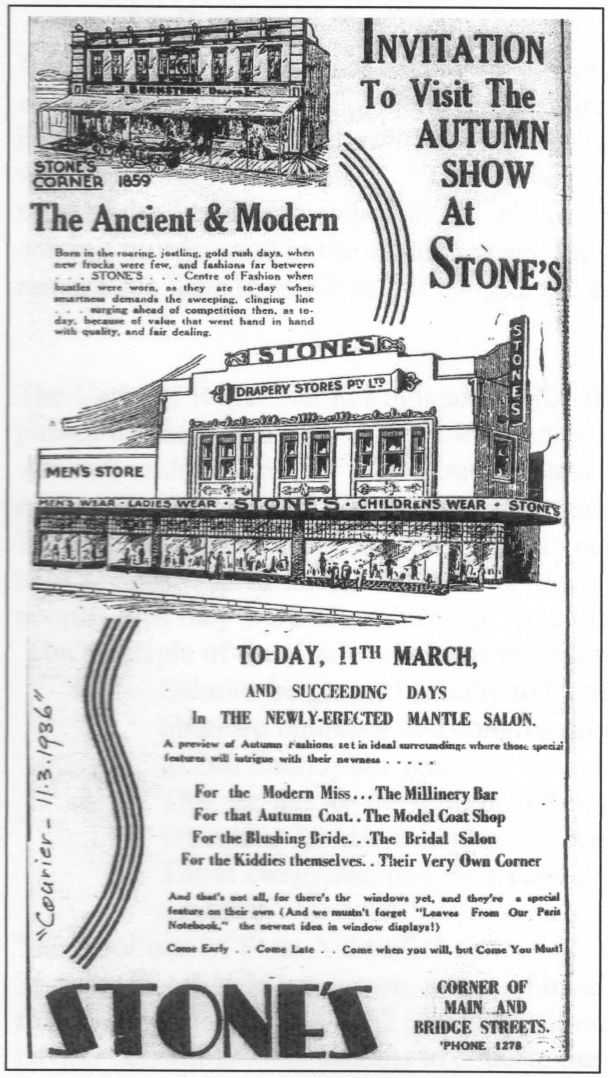
The Jewish people used the Clarendon Hotel (which was opposite the Wesleyan Church in Lydiard Street) for their first service. They then moved to Barkly Street, after having erected a small wooden synagogue, approximately where the Girls'School was in Barkly Street. By 1861 they had built a new brick Synagogue in Princes Street for the cost of One Thousand Seven Hundred Pounds, with the first Minister being Rev.David Isaacs.

Jewish Synagogue



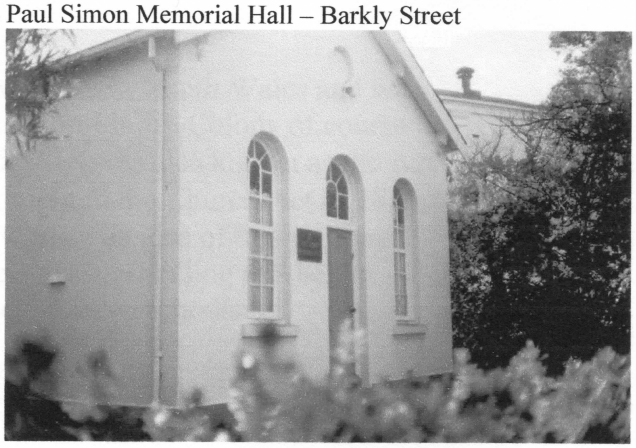
The first Jewish Marriage was celebrated at the synagogue at Bakery Hill in November 1857. By 1865 you had to book a seat to get into the church, with the following advertisement being placed in the paper – "To Members of the Jewish Faith – Members requiring seats in the Synagogue during the ensuing holidays must make applications on or before the afternoon of the 20th instant. J.Showman, Hon.Sec."

The hard working industrious Jewish people observed their Sabbath day on Saturday, which meant that their businesses had to close on Saturday. This was one of the busiest times of the week for most businesses, which all observed the Sabbath day, the day of rest, on Sunday. The Jewish business communities still thrived, without opening on Saturday, and one of the most well known shops was Stone's shop at the corner of Bridge Street and Main Road. Mr.Nathan Spielvogel was another member of the Hebrew congregation and he was appointed as the Foundation President of the newly formed Ballarat Historical Society in 1933 and he performed a marvellous feat encouraging people to enjoy Ballarat's history for the Anniversary celebrations in the 1930's. No doubt he would have had wonderful time writing about history with the computer and all the other electronic advantages we have today.

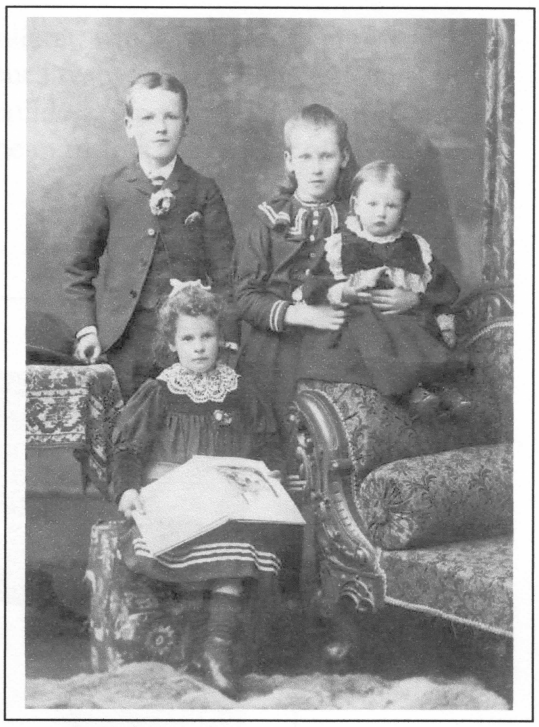


Stone's Advertisement – with kind permission of The Ballarat Courier.

Paul Simon Memorial Hall – Barkly Street







Family photo's from private collection.

The Government, hoping to encourage citizens to be law abiding and upright, in the new colony, brought in financial aid to assist churches. Being open and fair minded this included all denominations with the Church of England procuring the highest advantage with their bigger community. They of course were hoping that people would observe the rules of the Ten Commandments, which included, Thou shall not steal, Thou shall not commit murder, and in the ensuing years, the churches and their congregations performed remarkable feats to stabilise and educate the community.

The Catholic Relief Act in England in 1829 filtered down to New South Wales and was passed by the Legislative Council in January 1830. (The Port Phillip Colony of course was still under the rule of New South Wales) This Relief Act was also known as the Act of Catholic Emancipation. Governor Bourke then brought in the Church Act of 1836. This was to help all Churches, and what a great help it was. The idea of this generous help was also that churches helped everyday citizens become law abiding and better people, plus they were also educating the children in their Sunday schools.

The principle of the Church Act was as follows:

1. Salaries be granted equally to Clergymen of all denominations, provided they obtained churches and congregations. The salary range being from 50 Pounds to 200 Pounds per year.
2. That the aid for the building of churches never exceeds the sum raised by voluntary donations, and not exceed one thousand pounds. ($2,000)
3. Those clergymen had their passage paid from England plus an allowance for an outfit.

The Abolition of State Aid to Religion came in force with the ACT 391, in 1871. For the 35 years that the aid was given, it was of invaluable assistance. (Ballarat benefiting only from the mid 1850's) In 1872 State Education came in and this relieved the churches of having denominational schools to educate the children. They then reverted to having what is now known as "Sunday School" for the children.

By 1865 it is reported that there were 44 churches in Ballarat, which included eight Anglican and nineteen Methodist churches, and with four Presbyterian and three Roman Catholic Churches. What a busy time it was for the builders, the stonemasons, and the parishioners raising funds to build their churches and the ministers and priests of this era.

World War II – Wedding



Wedding photo from private collection.

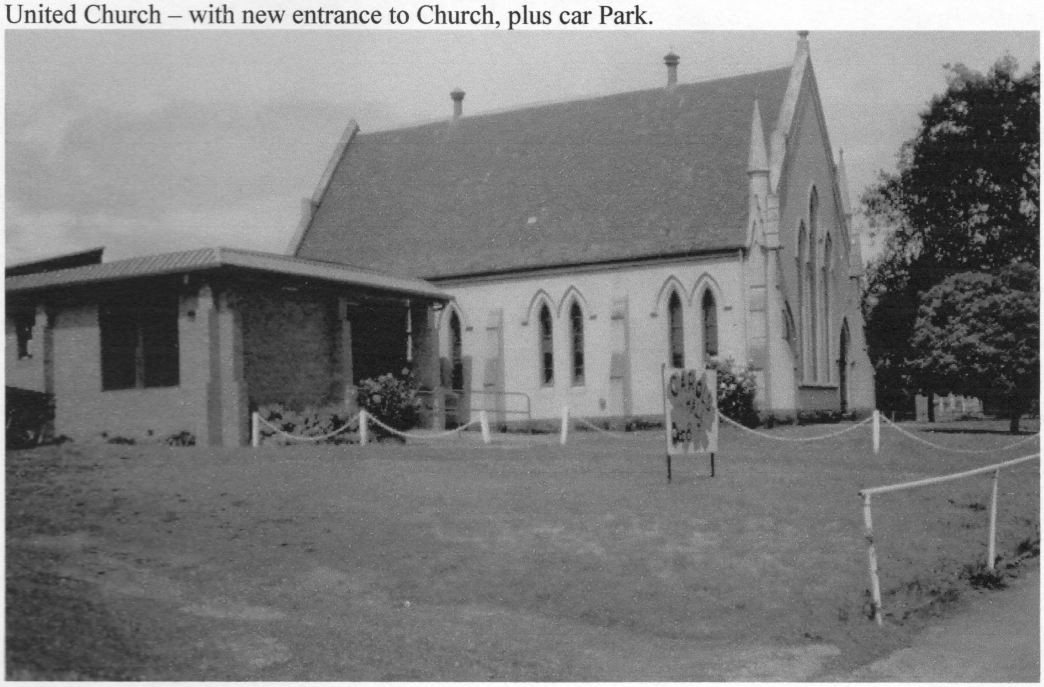
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- VPRS/6420/P/000 – Unit 1 – page 19 Town Allotments - Ballarat East, County of Grant, Feb 22nd, 1871 showing Wesleyan Church Reserve, Church of England Reserve & Roman Catholic Chapel site in Humffray Street North.
- Town allotments Map - site of C.G.Allanby & Ors. Site on the corner of Ryan and Victoria Streets on the 29.4.1870. Size of allotment 2.1.4 and No.13. VPRS/4771/P1 – Unit 121
- Map showing the road called Allanby Street, from Bradbury Street to Ryan Street.
- Special Allotments, Brown Hill, Ballaarat - showing Church of England Reserve. VPRS/
- Map – St.Paul's parsonage – East & Victoria Streets VPRS4775/P – Unit36
- 1861 Surveyors General Map of Ballarat. VPRS/6420/P Unit1.
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- "From tent to Parish Complex- October 1851" by Fr. T.J.Linane, Diocesan Archivist in The Courier, November 2, 1974
- Primitive Methodist Church - The Star, Saturday June 23, 1860
- Primitive Methodist Church - The Star, Monday, June 25, 1860
- The Star Feb 13, 1865 - tenders accepted - Little Bendigo- Wesleyan
- The Star - March 15, 1865 Laying of Foundation Stone
- The Star - March 18, 1865 - Foundation Stone - Little Bendigo - Wesleyan
- The Star, Mar 21, 1865 - District Temperance Movement – Fellmongers
- The Star - December 30, 1863 - St.James C of E, Calling for tenders
- The Star, December 30, 1863 - Little Bendigo - Architect-W.Doane
- The Star, December 28, 1863 Little Bendigo C of E, Building Committee
- The Ballarat Courier - Supplement - March 17, 1988 - Page 39 "Ballarat 150 Year" - Photo of Gong Gong Church's 50th Anniversary.

- Have completed Wesleyan Chapel, moving from the site of the Old Eureka Lead to midway between the Brown Hill and Caledonian Lead. Ballarat Times 13/5/1857
- Map – The Springs – site of Church of England
- Map – The Springs – site of Wesleyan Church
- Allanby Street Gazette 1987/1167
- Map – Town Allotments – Ballarat East – County of Grant 1871
  Wesleyan Church, Church Street, Kent Street, and reserve at back of Church (Common School).
- Cornish Pioneers of Ballarat by Lillian Dell & Joy Menhennet Martin Hosking Page 20.
- The Relief Act (known also as Act of Catholic Emancipation) was passed by the Legislative Council on 18/1/1830 as law in New South Wales.
- Abolition of State Aid to Religion 1871.
- Brown Hill Wesleyan Church 8th Anniversary – The Star November 23, 1863.
- Little Bendigo Map – approx.1871 – showing Church of England Reserve and Wesleyan Church.
- Catholic Church Reserve – Charlesworth Street.
- Photo of Gong Gong Church, in 1910. – Courtesy of Mrs.Norma Moulten.
- Photo of 50th Anniversary kind permission from Mrs.Norma Moulten.
- Forefathers in Faith – compiled by Joan Ogilvie for 150 Years of United Church. Pub.2003
- First Jewish Marriage at Synagogue – The Star 26/11/1857.
- Jewish Synagogue – Nathan Spielvogel Papers, Vol.1.
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- Synagogue – members requiring seats – The Star, September 19,1865
- Chinese Mission, The Star, December 1857
- Buninyong Catholic Church, Fr.Richard Fennelly – The Star 11/9/1857
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- St.Mark's, Brown Hill – concert – Courier January 1, 1937
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  Researcher Lorna R.Lyon, Pub.1993.
- Australian Jewish Historical Society Vol.IX, Pub.1984.
- Stone's Corner Shop, The Courier March 11, 1936.
- Soiree at the Lutheran Church – The Star, April 15, 1862.
- St.Paul's Bazaar – The Star November 2,1859
- Centenary of St.Luke's C of E, Pootilla – Courier April 29, 1972.

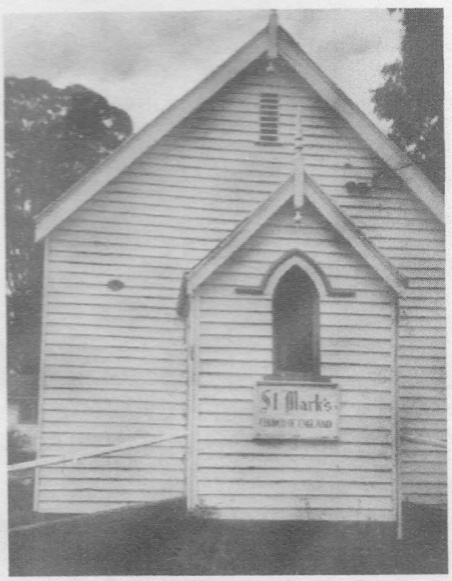
- Tenders to erect wooden building to be called St.Mark's Church, Brown Hill. The Star April 2, 1862
- Wm.Lakeland, two storey brick house – The Star April 4, 1862
- Chinese Mission – Tenders for erection - The Star December 1857
- 150 Years on Bakery Hill 1854-2004

United Church – with new entrance to Church, plus car Park.



150 Years of Anglican Presence on Bakery Hill

ST MARK'S BROWN HILL



ST MARK'S CHURCH,1984

Gong Gong Methodist Church – 50 Years

Photo kind permission from Mrs.Norma Moulten.

