

# Bathurst District Historical Society

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No. 1 GEORGE STREET,  
BATHURST. 2795

102 Mitre St.,  
Bathurst, 2795,  
10.7.1975.

Dear Mrs. Hohnen,

Your letter has been passed on to me for attention. We have indexed records for several people named Cock, but the only one that would appear to refer to your family is a notice of the death of Joseph Cock, in the Free Press and Mining Journal of 29.8.1894, which says "at Coonamble, on the 20th. inst. of consumption, the fifth son of Edwin and Susan Cock, aged 22 years, and 3 days. Beloved of all who knew him." Mt. Pleasant is the name of a large property just out of Bathurst which was a grant to Major - General Stewart about 1829 or 1830, and it would seem likely that anyone born there would have been the child of an employee of possibly lived on one of the farms into which the property was and still is divided; most of the property is still in the hands of the same family. Your old letter sounds a very interesting one, and well-worth preserving.

It would be quite impossible to send you copies of the papers we hold here to which the Dictionary of Biography refers, as among other material they comprise bound copies of over 100 years of local newspapers, and for some of those years copies of several different newspapers, and so far we have not been able to find the money to have them copied for our own use, as many of the early ones are very frail. There are no local papers extant anywhere for the period between 1862 and 1867 - those prior to 1862 are at the Mitchell Library - and if you have any specific dates you would like checked <sup>after this date</sup> I will be pleased to see if there is any mention of the events you mention for a small fee.

Yours faithfully,

*J. N. Rutherford*

Mrs. N/Rutherford.

Possibly  
Harry Cocks' father.

Methodist 15<sup>th</sup> August 1908 P.6.

The Church Triumphant

Mr Henry Cocks.

Mr Henry Cocks, late of Hillgrove and Blayney (N.S.W.) and formerly of Bendigo (Vic), died in London on May 12 at the age of 68, leaving a widow, four sons and two daughters, all the children being in Australia. Born in St. Just, Cornwall, Feb 18 1840, he came to Australia in the early sixties, and for many years resided in Bendigo, where he followed mining pursuits. He was not content, however, to remain a working miner, but by hard study, fitted himself for the position of a mine manager, and from about the age of 25 he had charge of important mining properties. He was a popular manager of men, and always exerted a benign and elevating influence over those in his employ. It was while quite a youth that Henry Cocks gave his heart to God, and joined the Wesleyan Methodist Church. His attachment to his Church, and his zeal for the progress of Methodism were ever most marked characteristics. He served the Church in every capacity open to a layman. As a class-leader and circuit steward he was most successful, and a loyal friend of the minister; and although not a local preacher, he many times occupied the pulpit rather than there should be no public service where he was residing. Several times he was elected representative to Conference, and took a wide and intelligent interest in all the affairs of the Church. His chief work, however, and that for which he was pre-eminently qualified, lay in the Sunday School, and as leader of young people's Bible classes. For 14 years he was the Superintendent of Golden Square (Bendigo) Sunday school, and wherever his lot was cast after that, in South Australia or New South Wales, when in charge of gold or copper mines, he was soon actively engaged in Sunday-school work, and was generally placed in the position of Superintendent. He had a most attractive personality, and young people were easily gathered.

wherever his lot was cast after that, in South Australia or New South Wales, when in charge of gold or copper mines, he was soon actively engaged in Sunday-school work, and was generally placed in the position of Superintendent. He had a most attractive personality, and young people were easily gathered about him for the study of the Bible, which he made most interesting to them. Whenever Mr Cock took charge of a mine and found no Methodist cause represented near, it was not long before he had one, as he would get to work at once and gather the children for a Sunday school, and write to the nearest Methodist Minister

15 Prospect St,  
Bathurst. 2795

come. Hilgrove was an instance in point. He had not been there many weeks before he had a Methodist Church built, and a Sunday School, of which he was the Superintendent until he left for Blayney. In 1902 Mr & Mrs Cock took a trip to England, intending only to remain one year; but circumstances kept them against their will. It was only a week or two before his death that he had practically concluded his business and was looking forward with a great longing to return to Australia, there to see his children again; but God in His infinite wisdom, ordered it otherwise. The complaint - bronchial asthma - from which he had been more or less a sufferer for many years, suddenly took a fatal turn, and Mrs Cock was suddenly left alone in the great city. Friends, however, were very kind, and especially the minister Rev W. Platt, and members of the Gospel Oak Church and Sunday School, with which Mr & Mrs Cock identified themselves. There are many, both in Victoria and this State, who will feel as they hear of his death, that they have lost one who helped them to love and serve their Saviour.

The eldest daughter of the late Mr Cock, is the wife of one of our ministers, the Rev R. Dunstan, formerly of Western Aust., and now stationed in Rockhampton, Queensland. All the rest of the family are connected with the Methodist Church in different parts of Australia.

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