

Bendigo Advertiser", with an interest in racing history, can identify this old picture of a racehorse believed to be an English champion of last century.

print between the pages of a history book, of 1850, that belonged to my grandfather John George Sauerbrey, a Londoner who came to Bendigo in the 1850s. There is nothing on the print to indicate either its origin or the name of the racehorse. Therefore, I believe it is a proof that someone later sent to my grandfather for that reason.

But, if it was not Bendigo, the racehorse, what was its name? It appears to have been drawn at a time when cameras were not fast enough to take a good picture of a lively animal. I think there must be many other copies in existence.

The secretary of the Victoria Racing Club, Mr. L. V. Lachal, to whom I sent a photostat copy of the picture, was interested and looked through a number of racing manuals in the Club's library.

Although Mr. Lachal did not find anything that helped to identify the mystery racehorse, he still thought it possible that they could see something to give them a lead when looking up old records in the future.

HAROLD CURNOW.

ty

Harold Curnow

THAT MYSTERY RACEHORSE!

21-11-68

My letter in the "Bendigo Advertiser" (October 31, 1968), with a reproduction of an old lithograph of a mystery racehorse, has started something.



Some people said he did not even look like a racehorse. Others thought he must have been quite a good bet in his day. I think it was just how

PROPHY BALL

at All Whites for the power, fitness and to play.

mendous spikes but Gordon Lowery, serving really well for Army, took their score to 4-1.

When Square called a much needed time out, the score board showed 8-2 in favor — because Golden Square made silly mistakes. A disputed decision against G.S.H.S. seemed to give them the break and they piled on six points but Army rallied its forces and launched a full scale attack to take the game 15-10.

With Square credited with two games to

the racehorse appeared to the artist who drew him—a powerfully-built thoroughbred (presumably English), with a gracefully arched neck, impressively long and strong legs, elegant in all his movements, and bearing an air of one in a class apart from all others.

With artistic licence, the artist of that era exaggerated the characteristics he saw in the animal, just as many artists of today exaggerate those features that impress them most in their human subjects.

I sent the newspaper cutting to the Secretary, The Jockey Club, Newmarket, England, and inquired whether he could identify the racehorse which was apparently one of the champions of last century.

Was it Bendigo? If not, then what was its name? The answer, either way, will be worth knowing. My inquiry was passed on to Mr. B. Curling, the public relations officer to The Jockey Club, in London.

Pending identification of my untitled print, Mr. Curling's information about Bendigo was quite interesting.

Mr. Curling said: "Bendigo was owned by Major Hedworth Trelawny Barclay, generally known as Buck. Bendigo was originally bought to win hunter races. He won the Cambridgeshire in 1883, was second in 1884, second in 1885, and second again in 1887. He won the Jubilee Stakes at Kempton and was second in the Cesarewitch at Newmarket. His colours were French Grey jacket and black cap."

Mr. Curling then passed my letter on to Mr. J. Hughes-Onslow, the Editor of "The Field", who wrote saying the topic was immensely interesting. He suggested that I send a photograph of the print for publication in the correspondents' column of that paper. The editor thinks one of their readers could identify it. So, with that kind of willing cooperation it seems likely that another mystery will be solved. And it is all good publicity for Bendigo.

HAROLD CURNOW, View Point, Bendigo.

Is it Bendigo — the horse?

I wonder if any reader of the "Bendigo Advertiser", with an interest in racing history, can identify this old picture of a racehorse believed to be an English champion of last century.

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HAROLD CURNOW.

racehorse

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H. Curnow



~~THE ARCHBISHOP OF CAPE TOWN~~

12 December 1969.

BISHOPSCOURT CLAREMONT CAPE PROVINCE : TELEPHONE: 71-2531

Dear Mr Curran, I was most interested in your enquiry re Bendigo in The Field for November 13. I have a print of Bendigo with my grandfather up (Tom Cannon) which gives the additional particulars that Bendigo was the first winner of the Eclipse Stakes at Sandown Park in 1886; the Cambridgeshire 1883, the Lincolnshire, and Handicaps Stakes in 1885. But no mention of the Jubilee Stakes*. The print gives the owner as Major H.T. Barclay and the trainer, Jousiffe.

I also have a painting by Giles of the Handicaps Stakes of 1887 with Bendigo (trick), J. Watts up. Bendigo was a jet black horse. Comparing your photo with my two reproductions, the tail and mane are identical, and the jockey bears a strong resemblance to J. Watts (it certainly is not Tom Cannon). The extremely arched neck is I should agree an artistic liberty. Both my reproductions suggest a small head.

Yours sincerely,
C. T. Wood.

* I have found a further reference in Racing Illustrated that Bendigo won the Jubilee Stakes in 1887, after the reproduction of my print, J. Watts up.

You will, perhaps, be interested to learn that I am a South African by birth. My parents were Australians but there was quite an exodus of Australians to South Africa after the Boer War. My parents went to Durban and returned with me when I was an infant.

in fact you learn

8, STRATTON STREET,
LONDON, W. 1.

TELEPHONE: 01 499 7881

R. 17/11/69

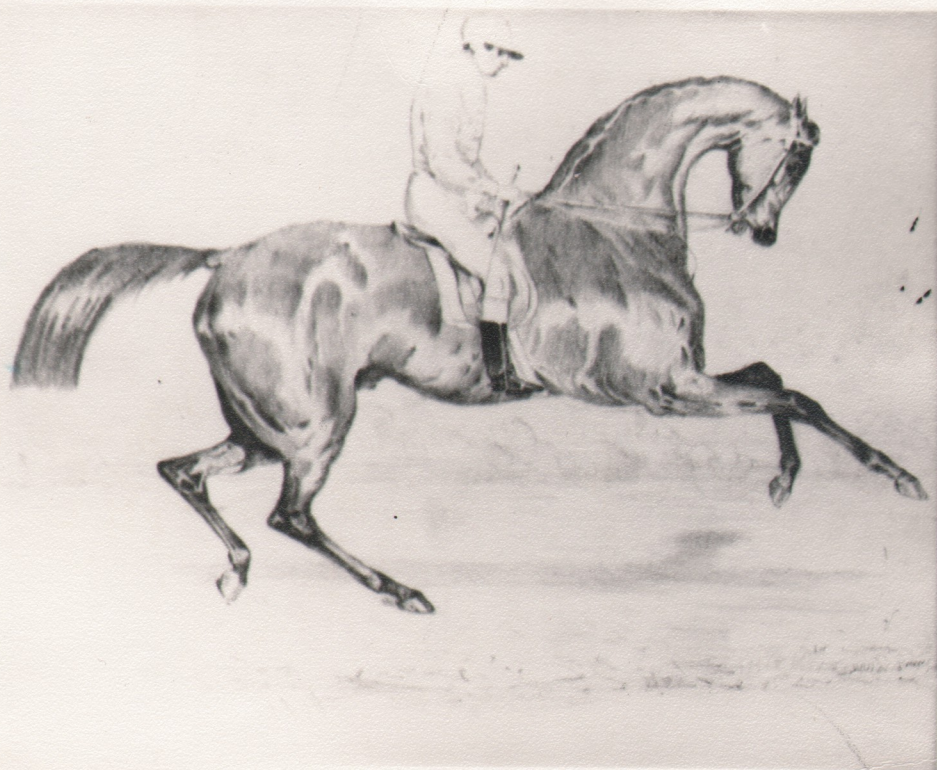
11 November

Dear Mr Curnow.

Thank you for your recent letter and photograph. I enclose the result - published at last - & will let you know if we get any response.

Yours sincerely,

James Hughes-Parkour



Tests for rabies?

From Major J E Hills

SIR, As the owner of two dogs which completed their quarantine only six months ago, can you help me on the following question in view of the present outbreak of rabies? In Germany, where rabies is common, there was obviously a grave chance of the dogs coming in contact with a rabid animal, since out shooting one occasionally saw animals suffering from the disease.

I therefore took the precaution of having the dogs inoculated, for I understood that this would prevent them from getting the disease, although it would not bar them from being carriers. Hence the necessity for quarantine if it is the only way of keeping the disease out of the country.

To put two dogs through quarantine costs approximately £140. The question I would like to ask is what in this modern day and age, when dogs go round the moon, is being done as regards research into detecting the dormant virus which apparently takes up to six months or more to die? Are the authorities working towards a way by which an owner will be able to submit a dog, or any animal, to a series of tests over a short period to determine whether the animal is a carrier?

The majority of dog owners who have to travel abroad would, I am sure, rather pay a similar or even larger sum of money to have their dogs subjected to such tests rather than have to sentence their 'best friends' to six months' paw-twiddling waiting for the virus to die. May I hasten to add that both dogs came out of quarantine in as fine a fettle as the day they went in, but it is being without them that hurts.

J E HILLS
BFPO 56.

¶ According to the Animal Health Department of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, no animal can infect another creature with rabies unless the animal itself is rabid. Even if an animal shows the classical symptoms of the disease, no one can be certain of the disease's presence until post mortem. Inoculation is a measure of protection but is no substitute for quarantine. In some cases, for instance, the inoculation may not take. No research is going on in this country into detecting the dormant virus because rabies here is rare.—ED.

Bendigo, the racehorse?

From Mr Harold Curnow

SIR, My lithograph (below) caused considerable public interest when it was published on the front page of the *Bendigo Advertiser* at the time of the Melbourne Cup last year. I found the print between

the pages of a history book of 1850 belonged to my grandfather, who can Bendigo in the 1850s. There is no to indicate its origin or the name of racehorse. Mr Eugene Gorman, Q Melbourne, thought that our city named after the well-known racehorse.

Its former name of Sandhurst was changed back to its original name of Bendigo in 1891. This place was known as Bendigo long before the racehorse was born. Therefore, the racehorse itself was either named after Bendigo or in some other way a picture could have been sent to my grandfather for that reason.

The horse was a well-built thoroughbred (presumably English), with long, straight legs and arched neck, which epitomized all his elegant movements. With lithography the artist exaggerated these characteristics.

It measures 6½in from the outer end of the square-cut tail to the tip of the right front hoof, and almost 5½in from the tip of the left rear hoof to the point where the two seem to meet in the picture. I would like to know whose name appears as the name of the lithographer, and the name of the jockey. And is that a Newmarket? The mane is cropped and a spur is visible on the jockey's right riding boot.

How did the racehorse Bendigo get his name? His owner, Richard John Lloyd Price, who died in 1887, could have looked upon him as a potential goldmine, but the link with the famous Bendigo goldfields, or he could have been named after the champion English prizefighter, William 'Bendigo' Thompson, of Nottingham.

The Jockey Club in London told me that Bendigo was owned by Major Hedworth Trelawny Barclay and was originally bought to win hunter races. He won the Cambridgeshire in 1883, was second in 1884, 1885, and 1887. He won the Jubilee Stakes at Kempton and was second in the Cesarewitch at Newmarket; his colors were French grey jacket and black cap.

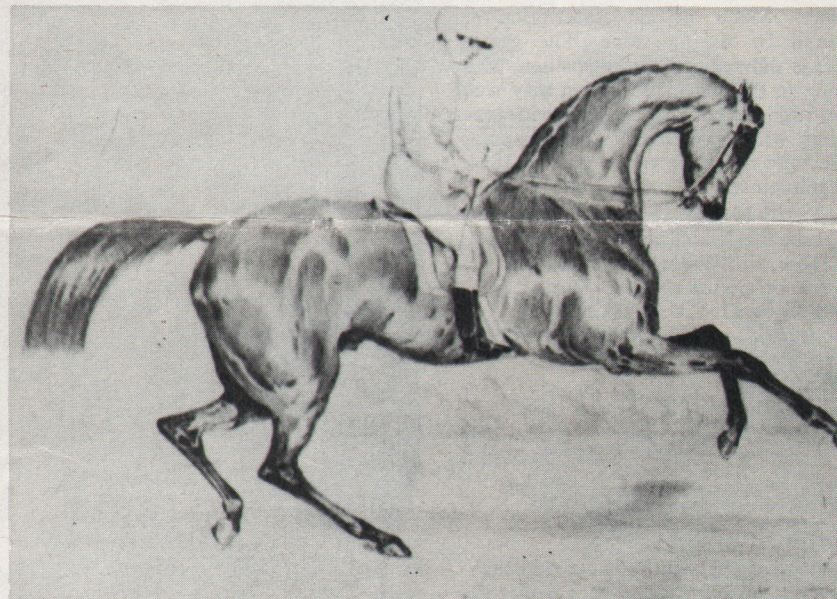
Mr Gorman believed that Bendigo at the time had another owner. "The horse's owner, a landowner in Merioneth, was in desperate financial straits, and with all the available money backed Bendigo to win a certain race. This, Bendigo did! In gratitude, his owner built a memorial to the animal in the burial grounds of Larrah Church, near Barla Lake. These are the words inscribed:

As to my latter end I go
To seek my Jubilee,
To bless the good horse Bendigo,
Who built this tomb for me.
Richard John Lloyd Price 1887."

Can any reader of *The Field* identify the horse or tell me the origin of the name Bendigo?

HAROLD CURNOW
Bendigo, Victoria, Australia

Is this lithograph the racehorse Bendigo? It was found in a history book of 1850 which belonged to John George Sauerbrey, a Londoner, who lived in Bendigo, Australia.



(By Airmail)

35005

3550,
AUSTRALIA.
March 13th. 68.

Mrs. M. C. S. Cruwys,
Secretary,
"Devon & Cornwall Notes & Queries" Committee,
31 St. Peter St.,
Tiverton, DEVON, ENGLAND.

Dear Mrs. Cruwys,

Hoping the above address is correct for the year 1968, I am enclosing Money Order for £1/1/- subscription to your quarterly magazine. I heard about your publication from the Secretary of the Genealogical Society of Victoria, Melbourne, of which I am a member. I am also a member of the Royal Historical Society of Victoria and have been interested in historical and genealogical research for over 40 years.

Incidentally, both sides of my family have lived in Bendigo for over a hundred years. I have always held the view (although not so widely shared in this country nowadays) that we are predominately people from England, Wales, Scotland and Ireland who long ago went to live in far off places and took along with them their independence, their know-how and their traditions. Our pioneers certainly brought a lot of place names with them. Devonport and Launceston are just two that come to mind.

I am gathering material for a book on early Bendigo and its hardy pioneers and, naturally enough, some of my inquiries extend to places in England whence they came. There is, in particular, one important question which I look upon as a challenge. Let me put it this way.

I am reliably informed that in The First Book of the Parish Registers of Madron, published in Penzance in 1877, and covering the period 1577 to 1681, there is a reference on page 93 to the name, Bennet, which ended with "...and Bendigo, in Australia, was so called after a Cornishman who settled there in the present century." That is, of course, in the nineteenth century.

My informant also said that the editor of the Madron Registers said elsewhere "Bendigo was a very common name in Cornwall.... There is a town in Victoria, Australia, named after a Cornish miner of that name, Bendigo."

From this has emerged the simple truth that, in 1877, some people in Cornwall knew for certain that Bendigo himself was not only a Cornishman but that he was also a miner before he came here. Then what was his real name? It must have been on record in several places (perhaps in many places) until 1877; perhaps even much later. Yet, the real name of the man who unwittingly gave this city its name has always eluded us.

The City of Bendigo has developed on part of the old Mount Alexander North Station which, in the 1840's, was occupied by a Charles Sherratt and Richard Grice on behalf of the partnership of Benjamin Heape and Richard Grice himself. Sherratt was the original occupier of

P.S. Any original material of special interest and of historical value, from Bendigo's point of view, that anyone would care to send me for inspection, will be taken good care of and will be returned promptly by registered post after copying.

the vast sheep station and he stayed on with Grice until 1843. There were in addition, of course, the employees of the partnership. Heape, the other partner mentioned, lived in Melbourne where he had a business to look after.

The size of sheep stations in those days of the early 1840's simply staggered the imagination and they remained Crown land until, in later years and with the growth in population, the Government made most of it available for other purposes. Mount Alexander North Station was reputed to cover an area of 118,990 acres!

It was during the early 1840's that Bendigo himself worked on Mount Alexander North Station. At that time he was a shepherd and, possibly, drove a bullock waggon also. Bendigo had a habit of settling arguments with his fists, so he was, understandably, nicknamed Bendigo after the champion English prize-fighter of that era.

Another early settler, James Mouat, who knew these parts quite well from 1837 onwards, remembered when Thomas Myers, an employee on Heape and Grice's station, built the hut that Bendigo lived in. It became known as Bendigo hut. The long stretch of country to the north-east of the hut became known as Bendigo Flat. And the watering place for the sheep, near the hut, became known as Bendigo's Creek.

Bendigo Flat, still shown on early maps, has since been built upon with many blocks of houses as well as the City's main shopping centre. Bendigo Creek, long since well-paved and made secure against the possibility of flood waters, runs through the city. And the site of Bendigo hut, where it all started long ago, is just over a mile from where I am writing this letter, although the hut itself is no longer there.

It was not until the end of 1851 that the gold era dawned on the Bendigo Creek diggings and this lonely outpost on a great sheep station really sprang to life. By then, however, our man Bendigo had been gone for several years, although he did leave his name behind him. In those dazzling golden days new settlers were arriving from the British Isles every month in shiploads, tiny as the little sailing ships were. My own paternal grandfather, Sampson Curnow, arrived from Penzance about 1863.

At this point a little practical deduction should get results. From all accounts by early in 1852 the news about the rich Bendigo Creek diggings had become common talk throughout England and, especially, in Cornwall, because Bendigo has acquired a wealth of Cornish names. A natural reaction from our man Bendigo, assuming that he was back in his old homeland, would have been to claim an intimate knowledge of the setting of this new gold rush. He knew the place well! More importantly, it was named after him! His statements would, doubtless, have been recorded in the newspapers of the times and must have been quoted and set down in various other records that have since become historical documents. How else could the editor of the Madron Registers have known about it in 1877?

What did our man Bendigo look like? What was his real name? If your Committee does not hold the answer in its extensive records then, perhaps, the mystery is interesting enough to give an airing in your magazine.

Yours sincerely, *Harold Curnow*

Money Order payable to -
Devon & Cornwall N. & Q. Committee

P.O. Box 96,
Bendigo,
Victoria, 3550,
AUSTRALIA.

November 21st 1969.

Mr. J. Hughes-Onslow,
"The Field",
8 Stratton St.,
LONDON, W.1. U.K.

Dear Mr. Hughes-Onslow,

Thank you for your Airmail letter received this week, enclosing the page from "The Field" of November 13th 1969 showing the picture of my mystery racehorse, which might be old "Bendigo".

Yesterday I received also by Airmail the following letter from a Mr. Rich. The letter is apparently not intended for publication, as he wrote direct, but I suppose the substance of it can be mentioned, if there is anything worth mentioning.

"The Elms
Thorpe Satchville
Melton Mowbray
Leicestershire
13/11/69

Dear Sir,

I read your letter to the "Field" with interest. And can supply you with a little more information about Bendigo.

When I was a boy, there was an old groom working in the village where we lived called Patrick Dillon. He was an Irishman and had been a jockey and trainer in his time, when I knew him he was working for the late John Darby of Hillmorton Rugby - a well known horse dealer. The first horse that Pat "did" when he started work in stables was Bendigo. He said he was a big overgrown yearling and had just come off the bog! (?) The head lad told him to clean him up. When Pat said he had no brushes the head lad told him to use the yard broom! Soon after this Bendigo slipped up and hurt his back. The trainer had a sheep killed and as soon as the skin was off, it was placed on Bendigo's back, in the same way that a poultice would be put on today. This had the desired result and he became quite well. Soon after this he was sold and came to England.

Yours Sincerely,
(Sgd.) George Rich.

P.S. Bendigo was foaled in 1880 by Ben Battle out of Hasty Girl (Page 541 G.SE vol.xv). Hasty Girl the property of Mr.M. Taylor."

Apparently Pat Dillon had charge of Bendigo long before he went to work for John Darby. Mr. Rich did not identify the old print of a racehorse, nor did he say how the racehorse, Bendigo, got his name, but the names and dates mentioned could provide clues.

Yours sincerely,

Harold Burnow.

P.O.Box 96,
Bendigo,
Victoria, 3550
AUSTRALIA.

November 20th 1969.

George Rich Esq.,
The Elms,
Thorpe Satchville,
Melton Mowbray,
Leicestershire, U.K.

Dear Mr. Rich,

Thank you very much for your Airmail letter of November 13th 1969 and for the information about the racehorse, "Bendigo".

The names, dates and incidents you mentioned were very interesting. I am trying to identify the old lithograph of the racehorse pictured in "The Field", also on November 13th. There is a big query about it. If he is not "Bendigo" it will be equally as interesting to know who he was, because he appears to be an English champion. I am hoping that someone will have a similar print, or illustration, with the name/s on it. Mine appears to be a proof copy without any identification.

In any case, as a resident of Bendigo I, along with many others, shall be interested to learn how the racehorse, "Bendigo", got his name.

There is also a liner, a warship, a large passenger aircraft, the late English prize-fighter, all named "Bendigo", and even "Bendigo" strong ale which I believe is made and sold in England.

I am a member of the Bendigo Branch of the Royal Historical Society of Victoria, also a member of the Victorian Genealogical Society, so I am quite interested in names with an historical flavour.

Thanking you again for writing so promptly.

Yours sincerely,

Harold Burnow.

P.O.Box 96,
Bendigo,
Victoria, 3550,
AUSTRALIA.

November 27th 1969.

Mr. J. Hughes-Onslow,
"The Field",
8 Stratton St.,
LONDON, W.1. U.K.

Dear Mr. Hughes-Onslow,

Further to mine of the 21st November. This week I received the following letter by air re the racehorse, "Bendigo", from Lady Jackson, the daughter of its former owner, Major Hedworth T. Barclay.

From Lady Jackson's letter it is apparent that the old print in question is not of "Bendigo", the racehorse. Then, in answer to my double-barrelled poser, who was he? What was my grandfather, John G. Sauerbrey, a non-racing man, doing with a proof copy of a champion racehorse print? Perhaps some other reader of "The Field" will come up with an identification of the racehorse.

It now appears also that when Richard Price died in 1887 he was not then the owner of "Bendigo", but Major Barclay was. Richard Price was the former owner. The story is now assuming proportions that make sense.

Lady Jackson's letter is apparently not intended for publication, verbatim, but again the substance of the letter can be mentioned, I suppose. Lady Jackson also gave the enlightening information that "Bendigo", the racehorse, was named after the English prize fighter, William "Bendigo" Thompson, of Nottingham.

"From Lady Jackson

Great Posbrooke,
Titchfield,
Fareham,
Hants.

Nov.20.

Dear Mr. Curnow,

I am most interested in your letter in the "Field". I am Major Barclay's daughter and did actually see Bendigo as a child when he was retired from racing at Gadderly Hall in Leicestershire, where he is buried. I am sure the lithograph is not him. He was black and had got a mane. I've several pictures of him and 2 hoofs. Of course, he won those races before I was born. He was named after the boxer, Bendigo. His breeding was by Ben Battle out of Hasty Girl. I spose the first owner was the Welshman who built a memorial to him.

If you are interested I could try and get you a picture (photo snaps of my print?) of him. I've often wondered about your town, Bendigo.

Ys. (Sgd.) N. Jackson.
Colours, French grey, violet cap."

This all goes to show that "The Field" circulates in the right places when it comes to resolving half-forgotten facts about racing in the past.

- Harold Guinness

P.O.Box 96,
Bendigo,
Victoria, 3550,
AUSTRALIA.

December 20th 1969.

Mr. J. Hughes-Onslow,
"The Field",
8 Stratton St.,
LONDON, W.1. U.K.

Dear Mr. Hughes-Onslow,

Following mine of November 21st and 27th last re the English racehorse, "Bendigo", and the picture published in "The Field" on November 13th, I have received this week the following programme from Canon C.T. Wood, of Claremont, South Africa, whose grandfather rode "Bendigo" back in the 1880's. Canon Wood might not wish to be identified as the writer, but what he says revives the past and is news.

"Bishopscourt,
Claremont, Cape Province.
12 December 1969.

Dear Mr. Curnow,

I was most interested in your enquiry re 'Bendigo' in "The Field" for November 13. I have a print of "Bendigo" with my grandfather up (Tom Cannon) which gives the additional particulars that "Bendigo" was the first winner of the Eclipse Stakes at Sandown Park in 1886, the Cambridgehire 1883, the Lincolnshire and Hardwicke Stakes in 1885. But no mention of the Jubilee Stakes. The print gives the owner as Major H.T. Barclay and the trainer, Jousiffe.

I also have a painting by Giles of the Hardwicke Stakes of 1887 with "Bendigo" third, J. Watts up. "Bendigo" was a jet black horse. Comparing your photo with my two reproductions, the tail and mane are identical, and the jockey bears a strong resemblance to J. Watts (it certainly is not Tom Cannon). The extremely arched neck is I should agree an artistic liberty. Both my reproductions suggest a small head.

Yours sincerely,
(Signed) C.T. Wood.

P.S. I have found a further reference in Racing Illustrated that "Bendigo" won the Jubilee Stakes in 1887, after the reproduction of my print, J. Watts up."

I think it is remarkable for this information to be turned up so promptly more than eighty years after the events happened, thanks to the wide circulation of "The Field".

In a later letter Lady Jackson, Major Barclay's daughter, quoted in mine of November 27th, said she has an oil painting of "Bendigo" and will send me a coloured photograph of it.

Yours sincerely,

Harold Curnow

Bendigo,
Victoria, 3550,
AUSTRALIA.

January 28th 1970.

Mr. J. Hughes-Onslow,
"The Field",
8 Stratton St.,
LONDON, W.1. U.K.

Dear Mr. Hughes-Onslow,

Thank you for your cards (2) received by
surface mail today.

I shall be glad to meet your sister if she
visits Bendigo and can, perhaps, introduce her to
some kindred spirits who might prove helpful and
interesting. My office is right in the centre of
the city, in the red Colonial Mutual Life Assurance
building, opposite the Fountain at View Point, but
I will need to know a few days before she calls as
I am out a lot.

Few Australians nowadays seems to realise
that, in most cases, their parents, or grand-parents,
or great-grandparents came from the U.K. They were
merely people who went to live in another country
far away and took their independence and know-how
with them. I am still in communication with third-
cousins in Scotland and Wales. Still, I am sure
that your sister will find her contacts, whether
they are historically minded or not, to be nice and
friendly people. If she already knows someone in
Australia, then so much the better.

Since advising the receipt of earlier
overseas air letters I have received another letter
from Mr. (formerly Doctor) Ryan MacMahon, Greenmount
Hill, West Australia, a letter about the Biblical
Abednego (Bendigo), information which I already knew.
But I am agreeably surprised at the way "The Field"
gets around.

Yours sincerely,

Harold Burnow

P.O.Box 96,
Bendigo, Victoria,
3550
AUSTRALIA.

Oct. 14th. 1969.

Mr. J. Hughes-Onslow,
"The Field",
8 Stratton St.,
LONDON, W.1. U.K.

Dear Mr. Hughes-Onslow,

Referring to previous correspondence regard-
ing my old untitled proof copy of a mystery racehorse
print, more particularly my letter of December 13th.
1968, this is to express with regret the delay in
sending the photograph copy of same.

Being semi-retired, and living out of
Bendigo, I seldom come in in the day time,
although I am here each night when the cafes are
open but the shops are closed.

However, at last I managed to place an
order for the photograph last Friday, and will
collect same this weekend. It will be about 4" x
5" as you suggested.

I will send it by Airmail, marked "Photo
graph Only", and you should have it within a fort-
night.

This, I trust, ends the long chapter of
delays at this end. You have all the other
information that I had on the mystery racehorse,
which might be "Bendigo".

Yours sincerely,

Harold Burnow

*Sent Photograph
by Air Mail
Aut. Oct. 25th 1969.*

(48c)

Dr. Ryan-MacMahon
Telephone: 73 9315

517 Great Eastern Highway,
Greenmount Hill, W.A.
6056
9/11 1970

3550.

February 4th 70.

Dear Mr. Cannon
Re your letter in The Field
- now close on 80 years of age, I
remember in my schooldays having
read that the Bishop of Bendigo
might be shocked to learn that
the city had been named after
a prizefighter. Also, the name
was described as a corruption
of ABEDNIGO, who was
one of the 3 that walked un-
scorched in the fiery furnace.

Mr. Ryan-MacMahon,
517 Great Eastern Highway,
GREENMOUNT HILL,
W.A. 6056.

Dear Mr. Ryan-MacMahon

This will acknowledge and thank you rather belat-
edly for yours of January 9th re my inquiry in "The Field",
London. It was a double-barrelled inquiry - could any
reader identify my old mystery print of a racehorse, and
how did the English thoroughbred, Bendigo, get its name.

What appeared in "The Field" was a composite
"letter" made up from my own inquiry and a report from the
"Bendigo Advertiser" that I sent them. It wasn't exactly
as I had written it.

Bendigo, the city, was named after the man who
lived here, in 1240, one Langdon, a former Cornish miner.
He was nicknamed "Bendigo", because he was handy with his
fists, after the Nottingham prize-fighter who, in turn, was
one of triplets, Shadrach, Meshak and Abednego (Bendigo)
Thompson, who were named after the Biblical characters.

The name seemed to have originated with the Not-
tingham prize-fighter, William (Bendigo) Thompson, but there
is even some doubt about that because a Cornish writer in
1877 said that the name was commonly used in Cornwall, but
for how long previously I do not at present know. Anyway,
the English prize-fighter had nothing to do with the naming
of the Bendigo Creek Diggings, which were the start of our
city. I am writing a book on it, and other things.

Lady Jackson, of Hampshire, a daughter of Major
Barclay, the former owner of the English racehorse, Bendigo,
has promised me a colored photograph of a print she has of
Bendigo. Canon Wood, of Cape Province, South Africa, from
whom I heard also, is a grandson of the jockey, Tom Cannon,
who rode Bendigo in some of his successful races.

I never cease to marvel at the way "The Field" gets
around.

Thanking you again for writing.

Yours sincerely, *Harold Curman*

3550.
Mr. Harold Curman
Bendigo
Victoria.
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Historical Society of Victoria, and the Genealogical Society of Victoria, and have been interested in this kind of thing for more years than I can remember.

My letter in "The Field" was really a composite one and not exactly as I had written it, a summary of what appeared in the "Bendigo Advertiser" and in my letter itself. We do know the origin of the name of our city. It was named after the man who first lived here, "Bendigo" Langdon. He was a Cornishman who was handy with his fists. He was nick-named after the English prize-fighter, in much the same way as people still within living memory, and who also settled arguments with their fists, were nick-named Joe Louis or Jack Dempsey. Mr. Eugene Gorman, Q.C., was mis-informed about the name, "Bendigo".

Our city had its beginnings in 1840 as a part of an extensive sheep station called Mount Alexander Station. "Bendigo" Langdon worked on it. Gold was discovered on Bendigo's creek at the end of 1851 and the place grew from a sheep station to a city in 20 years.

The first Post Office was the Bendigo Creek post office, on the Bendigo Creek Diggings. The town became Sandhurst, on January 1st 1854, and remained so until 1891 when it was changed by a local poll back to Bendigo. But the name, Sandhurst, was never popular. From the outset the name of the Bendigo Creek was never changed and the goldfields were always the Bendigo goldfields. The "Bendigo Advertiser" was also published in Sandhurst.

You might be interested in enclosed "Five Little Scots", of 1859, to which I have added some typing. I sponsored it in 1959 through the local historical society. The eldest girl, Annie, married J.G. Sauerbrey, mentioned in "The Field", and became my grandmother. She was never tired of telling me about her homeland.

Yours sincerely,

Harold Curwood

November 26th 69.

35005
Lady N. Jackson,
Great Posbrooke,
Titchfield,
Fareham,
HAMPSHIRE, U.K.

Dear Lady Jackson,

I was pleased to receive your airmail letter of November 20th throwing some light on the mystery racehorse pictured in "The Field" on November 13th. It now appears that when Richard Price died in 1887 he was not then the owner of "Bendigo", but your father, Major Barclay, was.

My query was a double-barrelled one, so to speak. If the racehorse shown was not "Bendigo" then it would be equally as interesting to know who he was. I think my copy of the print was a proof of the original, hence no name on it, and so the mystery arose.

It is clear from your letter, though, that the racehorse pictured was not "Bendigo". Perhaps some other reader of "The Field" will come up with the answer to that part of the question.

Now, many people here are quite interested in your "Bendigo", and in anything else with the name of "Bendigo". There was a warship of that name, also a P. & O. liner, a passenger carrying aircraft, "Bendigo" strong ale (brewed and sold in England) and, of course, William "Bendigo" Thompson (1811-80), the Nottingham prize-fighter.

The name, "Bendigo", as you might already know, was an invented word adapted by the English prize-fighter from the Biblical name of Abednego. He was, in fact, one of triplets, Shadrack, Meshak and Abednego, but in its original form the last-named would hardly have been suitable in the prize-ring.

Your kind offer of a picture of "Bendigo", the racehorse, is very timely and acceptable. In fact, I will be pleased to get a printing block made of it and include same in my "Bendigo Miscellany" which I will be publishing in small parts, very likely monthly, next year. It will be fitting, too, to perpetuate the name in this way because the racehorse and our city had the same rather uncommon name.

I am a member of the Bendigo Branch of the Royal