

## **Silver Medal ID 8900.27**

County of Bendigo Agricultural and Horticultural Society.

This medal was donated to the Bendigo Historical Society in 2016.

The donor received the medal from an elderly lady (Miss Code) who lived on the family farm at Longlea near Bendigo, on the banks of Axe Creek. The donor collected the mail and newspaper for Miss Code who paid him 2 shillings a week. She gave him the medal one day as a thank you.

Miss Code was the spinster daughter of "Colonel Code".

Miss Code's father was Benjamin William Code born around 1828 and who died in 1914 aged 86. No evidence could be found that Benjamin CODE was ever a Colonel. Obituary below.

Benjamin William and Annie Maria Code (nee Ready) had seven Children

1. William John. Born 1861. Died 1940. Aged 79. Obituary below. Served in the Bendigo Cavalry.
2. Frederick George. Born 1870. Served in the Bendigo Cavalry, the Boer War and the First World War.
3. Robert
4. Benjamin Stewart. Served with the Mounted Police.
5. Frank
6. Alice Jane. Died 1964
7. Minnie. Died 1948

Neither of the girls married.

Another daughter was born after Benjamin Code remarried after the death of his first wife.

Newspaper articles from 1885 list the second prize winner (listed on the medal) at the Bendigo Show in 1885 as W CODE.

This is most likely William John CODE and it was one of his sisters who gave the medal to the donor.

### **BENDIGO SPRING SHOW. SECOND DAY.**

*Bendigo Advertiser (Vic. : 1855 - 1918) Friday 23 October 1885 p 4 Article*

BENDIGO SPRING SHOW.

SECOND DAY.

Notwithstanding the dull and unpromising weather yesterday there was a large attendance of the public on the show ground, and great interest was taken in the events which were conducted by the members of the cavalry, as well as in the trial of hunters, the pony races, and tho sheep shearing contests. Altogether tho show has been an unusual success, and the public never derived so much entertainment from any previous show in Sandhurst.

## THE CAVALRY TOURNAMENT. .

As on the first day great interest was taken in the Cavalry Tournament. In the absence of Lieut Colonel Brownrigg and Major Fellowes, who left for Melbourne on Wednesday night, the judging was in the hands of Messrs Goodisson and Henderson for sword exercise and heads and posts; and in the hands of Lieut. Clarke and Messrs Henderson and Goodisson for lime cutting.

Corporal Read, who won the lime cutting and heads and posts events, displayed great agility, and his performances throughout were first-class. Sergeant McColl won the sword exercise, and many excellent judges speak in the highest terms of his performance. Altogether these events were extremely satisfactory and the competition was close and interesting.

The lime cutting consisted in mounted men charging at full gallop at lemons suspended at certain distances apart, and cutting them in two. Corporal Read with twelve points was the winner of the first prize; Sergeant Houston and Private Delbridge, being a tie for second place, with nine points each. In the run off Houston obtained six points and Delbridge three points. The result was therefore McColl (Sandhurst), 1; Houston (Sandhurst), 2; and Delbridge (Sandhurst), 3.

The following also competed Corporal McKinnon (Sandhurst), Private Code (Sandhurst), Private Carrolan (Sandhurst), Sergeant Looney (Rupertswood) Private Bentley (Sandhurst), Private Wilson (Rupertswood), Corporal F. G. Code (Sandhurst), Private Clay (Sandhurst), Private Riley (Sandhurst), Sergeant Corcoran (Rupertswood), Sergeant McColl (Sandhurst), Private Ryan (Rupertswood), Private Fitzpatrick (Rupertswood), Private W. Jackson (Sandhurst), Private Wall (Sandhurst) and Private Patterson (Rupertswood).

In the sword exercise by mounted men, there were twenty-one competitors. Mr McColl secured first place, and Houston (Sandhurst), and Patterson (Rupertswood), tied for second place. In the deciding round, Houston secured second place, and Patterson third. Had Houston shown as good form at first as he did in this round he would have tied for first place.

The heads and posts event was regarded with much interest. Heads were erected to represent cavalry and infantry, which had to be cut down, and rings were erected on the opposite side at which a point had to be delivered. There was first a cavalry head, then a ring, then a cavalry head, then a ring, then four infantry heads to cut and thrust at, all from 15 to 20 paces from each other. The competitors had to go at the rate of ten miles an hour. In many instances the competitors were successful in scoring all points, but had not made sufficient pace, while in others the competitors rode at so great a pace as to render success impossible. The result of the first two rounds was that Read and Code had each scored 72 out of a possible 80.

In the run off they again tied, and on running off a second time Read was the winner. In these two rounds, Read obtained 60 points and W. Code 52 out of a possible 80. The sword v. bayonet and bayonet v. sword competitions did not take place.

## **CODE William John**

From OBITUARIES AUSTRALIA

<http://oa.anu.edu.au/obituary/code-william-john-18272>

### **Code, William John (1861–1940)**

The recent death of Cr. W. J. [William John] Code removed from Heathcote one who was prominent in the public life of Victoria for many years, one who took a keen interest in local activities during the latter years of his life and one who was highly respected for his integrity of purpose and honesty of action.

Cr. Code was born at Bendigo, son of the late Mr. and Mrs. Benjamin Code, of Longlea. He was 79 years of age at the time of his death. He entered the employ of the Victorian Forests Commission and after years of faithful service – many of which were spent in the Heathcote district as Forester – he received promotion and ultimately recognition of his executive ability and knowledge of silviculture resulted in his appointment to the Chairmanship of the Commission. He occupied this important position with distinction from 1924 to 1927, and when he reached the retiring age he had had 40 years' successful service in connection with State forests. He gained a proficient knowledge of trees and the areas in which they grew, and he was ever a staunch advocate of the value of forestry to the country. As Chairman of the Commission he occupied an important post, which enabled him to bring to fruition many ideas of his own on the preservation of growing timber. He had a fund of information on his subject and many thrilling incidents could he recount of bush fires and forest life. He was thought highly of by Parliamentarians and officers connected with the Public Service.

When he retired he returned to Heathcote to live, and devoted himself to agricultural pursuits, having become a large landholder in the district. He took an interest in municipal affairs, and so keen was he on public life that although he was reaching an age when most men desired well-earned rest, he allowed himself to be persuaded to accept Council honours and he became a representative for the Central Riding. He proved a good Councillor, looking after the interests of the municipality and of Heathcote in particular in an enthusiastic manner. His experience of local forests was often of definite value to the Council and his advice was always received with gratitude. He occupied the Presidential chair this year, when despite his advanced years and failing health he exhibited commendable courage, his only worry being that his health would not allow him to do the position justice. Until he was confined to his room some months ago, he brought to the position quiet dignity and by his public receptions brought Shire affairs before the notice of many important visitors.

He became a member of the Heathcote Waterworks Trust, and he gave valuable service to the town in this connection also. It was but natural with his interest in pastoral matters that he should become actively connected with the Heathcote Agricultural and Pastoral Society, and as a member of the committee of management and President he rendered particularly able service to this cause. He was ever ready to advance the interests of the primary producer and was a member of various district deputations that received Ministers here or waited upon them in Melbourne.

The late Cr. Code, in his earlier connection with the town, was interested also in other bodies and institutions. He was a Freemason for over fifty years, having joined the Golden and Corinthian Lodge at Bendigo and later transferred to the Prince Alfred Lodge in the metropolis.

He was twice married, first to Miss Eva Jane Crowle, and there were three children of the marriage: Lilian (Mrs. J. W. Hall, now of Orbost), Frederick (now in Puckapunyal A.I.F. Camp), and James (Melbourne). With the death of his wife he later married Miss Edith Josephine Hall, who also predeceased him. Of this marriage there was one daughter: Edith Josephine (Mrs. Bert Kemp).

He is also survived by three brothers: Frederick George (Mt. Camel), Robert and Benjamin, and two sisters (Misses Minnie and Alice Code). To the children and relatives deep sympathy is expressed in their bereavement.

The funeral to the Heathcote Cemetery on Wednesday, 14th August, was attended by representatives of State Departments, local public bodies and a large number of personal friends of [the] deceased.

The coffin-bearers were members of the Heathcote Masonic Lodge: Wor. Bros. J. S. Hayes (Worshipful Master), L. W. Hagan, A. C. D. Thomas, and Bros. W. McRobert, W. A. Lewis and T. Dickinson.

The pall-bearers were Mr. E. A. Coyle, M.L.A., Mr. L. B. Butler (representing, the Country Roads Board), Mr. W. Gay (representing the Forest Commission), Crs. D. R. Thomas and J. O'Sullivan (representing the Mclvor Shire Council), Cr. J. A. Rainey and Mr. W. G. Story (President and Secretary of the Heathcote Agricultural Society), Mr. Alfred Lewis (Chairman of the Heathcote Waterworks Trust), and Mr. A. C. D. Thomas (representing the rate-payers of the Shire).

Rev. D. M. Wallace, of St. John's Church of England, Heathcote, conducted the service at the graveside, the Masonic service being read by Wor Bro. Robert Kilroy.

Messrs. Perry Bros., of Heathcote, had charge of the funeral arrangements.

#### PYALONG SHIRE'S SYMPATHY

References to Cr. Code's death were passed at last Wednesday's meeting of the Pyalong Shire Council, when it was decided to express to the relatives the deep sympathy of the members. Cr. Joseph Cooke referred to Cr. Code's many public offices and his long connection with the Health Group. Cr. W. J. Hayes said Cr. Code had been a good public man. He had been a member of the Agricultural Society and was President of the Shire of Mclvor. His death was very much regretted.

## CODE Benjamin

### OBITUARY. DEATH OF MR. B. CODE.

*Bendigonian (Bendigo, Vic. : 1914 - 1918) Tuesday 15 December 1914 p 20 Article*

OBITUARY. DEATH OF MR. B. CODE. A very old and highly-respected resident of the Strathfieldsaye Shire, in the person of Mr. Benjamin Code, expired at his residence, Longlea, on Wednesday last.

Mr. Code, who was 83 years of age, had been in failing health for some time, and his death was not unexpected. He was of a kind and genial disposition, and was held in high esteem by a wide circle of friends, who will hear with deep regret of his demise.

Mr. Code was a native of County Carlow, Ireland, where he was born on 16th October, 1831. He joined the Royal Irish Constabulary at the old Dublin Castle, and when the Crimean war broke out he enlisted for service. He had many sensational experiences in this war, and won the Turkish and Crimean medals. As soon as the war ended he came to Australia in the sailing ship *Champion of the Seas*. He spent the greater portion of his life in Victoria.

Soon after arrival in this State Mr. Code secured a position in the mounted police, and for many years he occupied the responsible position of senior-constable of the No. 1 Gold Escort.

In 1860 he was transferred to Bendigo. He remained in the mounted police, and rose to a high office, which placed him in charge of many men. He resigned in 1865, in order to take up a position as Government pound-keeper at Axe Creek.

He was for some years a regimental sergeant-major in the Prince of Wales Light Horse, and when this force was taken over by the military authorities he was given the commission of quarter-master-sergeant.

During his long and faithful service in the Strathfieldsaye Shire Mr. Code held many positions. He held office under the old Roads Board before it was merged into the shire council, and fulfilled the positions of health inspector and dog inspector during his connection with the latter body. Although his health had been failing for some time before his death, Mr. Code carried out his duties until about three weeks ago, when the council granted him six months' leave of absence.

A widow and family of five sons and three daughters are left to mourn their sad loss. The sons are Mr. W. J. Code, senior inspector of the State Forestry department; Captain F. G. Code, of Imperial Light Horse, who served in the South African war, and was awarded two medals with four and two clasps respectively; Mr. R. S. Code, of the Forestry office, Stawell; Mr. B. S. Code, mounted constable, of Kaiwa; and Mr. Frank Code, of Longlea. Captain Code has volunteered for the 3rd Australian Imperial Force, and was to have gone to Broadmeadows today. The three daughters are unmarried, two living in Melbourne and one at home. Mr. Code had been married for 50 years.