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Profile

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Alison's collection*

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RICHARD AND ELEANOR REYNOLDS NEE HINDE

Richard Reynolds was the son of Albon/Alban Reynolds and Eleanor Softlaw, born 1826 Islington, London, Eng. Baptised 1831 Pentonville. His occupation in London was a die-sinker supervising tradesmen in a foundry. When he left this employment he was given a "Letter of Introduction" dated 23rd Aug. 1856. He left London on the ship the "George Marshall" which departed on the 25th Aug. 1856 and arrived Port Phillip 12th Dec. 1856. This ship was later wrecked in 1862 on Flinders Island, Bass Strait, in the area now named "Marshall Bay".

On the 23rd Dec. 1858 Richard Reynolds and Eleanor Hinde were married at Forest St. Wesleyan Sandhurst (Bendigo). M/F 4497 Richard was promised a position in the proposed new Mint when operational and was given a reference by his firm.

Eleanor Hinde was the daughter of William and Mary Ann Hinde nee Windram. She was born c. 1838 Warton, Lancashire, Eng. Her father's occupation was Stonemason. Legend that her parents may have been from Scotland. Eleanor had two brothers in Australia, Richard and Robert. Arrival date of Eleanor and her brothers is unknown. Both her brothers were married but only brother Richard had a family.

A family of seven children were born to Richard and Eleanor Reynolds. Richard Croom, Charles Albon, Mary Eleanor, William John, Louisa, Harry Thomas and Amelia. (See Descendants list for details). As there was no demand for Richard's skilled labour, the Mint still to be built, he worked in the gold mines to support his family.

Sons Richard and Charles were born in a tent on the White Hills Gold Field and also daughter Mary. Son William was born in a hotel in Bendigo. This could possibly have been the hotel, a small building, owned by Eleanor's brother Richard. Louisa was born in Adams Rd. Bendigo and Harry Thomas at Eaglehawk, Bendigo. Harry was named after neighbours at White Hills, Harriet and Thomas. Amelia was born at Eaglehawk and was four months old when her father Richard died. He died of Miners' Disease - a lung complaint - on the 12th December. 1872, Sailor's Gully, Bendigo, buried Bendigo. 46 years D/F 09115

When Richard died his eldest son Richard was about fourteen and he left home to find work shearing. This became his work and he remained a batchelor living to old age. Charles was ten and helped his mother earn a living producing dairy products and eggs. He also helped look after the younger children in particular baby Amelia. Four years later Eleanor remarried Archelaus Opie, on the 27th May, 1876, C. of E., Bendigo. Archelaus was a miner born in Redruth, Cornwall, c. 1847. Archelaus had been married to a widow with two children. On his first wife's death presumably her children were looked after by their relatives.

Eleanor and Archelaus had two sons, William Robert and James Archelaus Opie. There are descendants of these two sons also.

Archelaus Opie was killed by train in Boulder W.A. 21st June 1900 and Eleanor died 13th August, 1902, Bendigo, *Bennet Bendigo Co.*  
*(at the moment) near Entrance. Archelaus buried in Boulder.*

Richard corresponded with a former workmate at the London Foundry. Richard's mother, Eleanor Softlaw was first married to John Croom 25.2.1806 and Richard Reynolds is born 20 years later. His workmate writes about Richard's brother. The name of this brother is not known. The surname could be Reynolds or it could be Croom, a half brother.

Eleanor owned property on the corner of Gladstone and Stanley sts. Bendigo. This area is now a S.E.C. Sub-station.

Notes on Children -

Richard Croom - Shearer - Batchelor	89 years
Charles Albon - Mine Engine Driver, Farmer - marr. 5 ch.	-86 years
Mary Eleanor - Tailoress - Spinster -	95 years
William John - Builder - marr. 5 ch.	79 years
Louisa - Buyer for Buckley & Nunn - marr 1 ch.	c.80 years
Harry Thos. - Barber - marr. 5 ch.	c.83 years
Amelia - Home Duties - marr. 5 ch.	70 years