

EUREKA  
EDUCATION

—  
KEY  
FIGURES

EUREKA  
CENTRE  
BALLARAT

ART GALLERY  
OF BALLARAT



# KEY FIGURES

## Judge William A'Beckett

---

A'Beckett was the judge at the first two Eureka State Treason Trials. After becoming ill, he was replaced by Judge Redmond Barry.

## Judge Redmond Barry

---

Judge Redmond Barry presided over the Eureka State Treason Trials. Barry is best known for being tough in his sentences and for sentencing bushranger Ned Kelly to death in 1880.

## James Bentley

---

An ex-convict from Tasmania, James Bentley was the owner of the Eureka Hotel, which was burnt down on 17 October 1854, after the death of Scottish miner, James Scobie. Bentley was accused of murdering Scobie and on 18 November 1854, James Bentley and his employees Thomas Farrell and William Hance were convicted of manslaughter. The three men had been tried and acquitted previously for this murder but due to the outcry on the Ballarat Diggings, the accusations of police corruption, and the riot and burning of the Eureka Hotel, a new trial was started. Bentley served three years hard labour for the crime.

## Raffaello Carboni

---

An educated linguist and Italian revolutionary, Raffaello Carboni was a member of the Young Italy movement, which aimed to create a united, independent country from the many fragmented Italian states. After fighting and being wounded in the Battle of Rome in 1849, he left Italy for London where he worked as a translator. By 1854, Carboni was in Ballarat and involved with the miner's campaign for a change. He was one of the 13 sent to trial for treason. To the government, he was an important arrest, as they tried to paint the diggers' rebellion as a foreign insurgency. Carboni, who had witnessed the battle wrote a book that is a primary reference document for Eureka.

## Doctor Alfred Carr

---

Alfred Carr was a doctor who worked on the Ballarat goldfields who performed the autopsy on the body of the murdered digger James Scobie. He also attended to the injuries of both the miners and the soldiers at the stockade. Dr Carr was a witness examined during the report of the Board appointed to enquire into circumstances connected with the riot at Ballarat, and the burning of James Bentley's Eureka Hotel.

## Magistrate John d'Ewes

---

Magistrate d'Ewes was one of the judges who acquitted James Bentley, Thomas Farrell and William Hance of all charges in relation to James Scobie's murder. The miners believed d'Ewes to be corrupt and the acquittal greatly angered the diggers,

triggering the burning of Bentley's Eureka Hotel. Shortly afterwards, the three men were tried again and convicted. At the same time, d'Ewes was questioned at an inquiry investigating the circumstances connected with the Eureka riot and the burning of the Eureka Hotel. The enquiry led to d'Ewes dismissal.

---

### Alicia Dunne

Alicia Dunne was the fiancé and later wife of Peter Lalor. When Peter Lalor was smuggled to Geelong after the Eureka battle, Alicia Dunne and Father Dunne (Alicia's father) later moved him to the Young Queen Hotel, where a bullet was removed from Lalor. Alicia then nursed him back to health.

Lalor kept Dunne up to date on the events leading up to the rebellion. On 30 November 1854 Peter Lalor sent the following letter to his future bride:

*My Dear Alicia,*

*Since my last a most unfortunate state of things has arisen here. I mentioned that great excitement prevailed here, owing to the attempt of the magistrates to screen the murderer of a digger. That excitement has been still further increased by the wicked licence-hunting. The authorities have gone so far as to have diggers fired upon this morning, who, in self-defence, have taken up arms and are resolved to use them.*

*You must not be unhappy on this account. I would be unworthy of being called a man, I would be unworthy of myself, and above all I would be unworthy of you and your love, were I base enough to desert my companions in danger. Should I fall, I beseech you by your love for me that love which has increased in proportion to my misfortunes, to shed a single tear on the grave of one who has died in the cause of honour and liberty, and then forget me until we meet in heaven.*

*Farewell, and believe me my dear,  
Yours until death,*

*Peter Lalor.*

---

### John Pascoe Fawkner

John Pascoe Fawkner devoted much of his time on the goldfields to the laws that governed gold mining. Fawkner participated in 96 select committees between 1852 and 1869, including the Commission of Inquiry into the goldfields in 1854–55. He referred to angry miners as 'worthless idlers' and was alarmed by the Chinese and American immigrants who he saw as potential sources of disorder. He considered that the presence of the Chinese might lead to civil war and he would have liked to expel them all. In September 1855 he wrote of 'wild Americans— who know no law but the Bowie Knife, the Rifle or Lynch practice'.

### Trooper Henry Goodenough

---

Trooper Henry Goodenough was brought to Ballarat in 1854 to act as a police informant. He worked in plain clothes and acted as a government spy. In the lead up to the Eureka Stockade, he observed the diggers meetings at Bakery Hill where he dressed as a digger. He is known for arresting James Beattie, a digger who participated in the Eureka uprising.

### Anastasia Hayes

---

Anastasia Hayes was a strong advocate for democratic rights and wife of the chairman of the Ballarat Reform League. In 1854, the family were in Ballarat where Hayes had given birth to their sixth child and started work as a teacher at St Alipius Catholic School.

The Eureka Flag was made as the emblem of the Ballarat Reform League and flown at their meetings. Stories passed down by descendants of those in Ballarat in 1854 suggest that the flag may have been sewn by three women, one of whom was Anastasia Hayes.

### Timothy Hayes

---

Timothy Hayes was an Irish engineer and supporter of the failed Young Ireland independence movement. The Irish potato famine and the British Government's suppression of the movement encouraged Young Irishmen like Hayes to seek opportunities elsewhere.

Hayes dug for gold and may have been in partnership with Lalor. When a Catholic priest's servant was fined for not having a licence, Hayes collected signatures to petition the colonial government to drop charges. He was elected chairman of the Ballarat Reform League and supported Lalor's call to arms. He was arrested after the events at Eureka and tried for treason but was acquitted by the jury.

### Charles Hotham

---

Sir Charles Hotham was a British naval officer and held senior posts, including acting as envoy on a sensitive diplomatic mission. The new colony of Victoria was struggling with the influx of gold seekers and the government couldn't build the required services quickly enough. When Lieutenant-Governor La Trobe resigned, Hotham was the replacement appointed to deal with this problem.

Unfortunately, Hotham's experience in the Royal Navy did not mean he could run a difficult colony. His staff and the executive council complained of his authoritarian nature. He saw his main problem as being trying to find the huge sums of money needed to run the colony. Although the licence fee was very unpopular, Hotham demanded that the police carry out frequent licence hunts.

---

### John Basson Humffray

---

John Basson Humffray, the son of a weaver, had worked as a legal clerk in Wales. He was a Chartist and believed that all men should have the right to vote, but also felt that the best way to achieve change was through non-violent means. He arrived in Ballarat in 1853.

As Secretary of the Ballarat Reform League, he was the principal author of the League's Charter, which was inspired by the Charter in Britain. It called for rights for the people, as well as outlining practical solutions to the diggers' discontent.

Repulsed by violence, Humffray did not support the building of the Eureka Stockade. After the attack, Humffray became a popular leader and gave evidence on the Goldfields Commission of Enquiry. In 1856 he was elected to represent Ballarat in the newly formed Legislative Assembly. He was Minister for Mines in 1861–62 and chairman of the Royal Commission for Mines in 1863.

---

### Richard Ireland

---

Richard Ireland was born in Ireland, the son of an army officer, and attended Trinity College Dublin. He moved to Victoria with his family in 1853 and worked as a barrister in Melbourne. He defended eight of the men accused of high treason. His eloquent defence of the Eureka defendants helped establish his career as Victoria's leading criminal lawyer.

In 1857, Ireland was elected to the Legislative Assembly and served as the representative for several rural electorates until 1863. His support of squatters who opposed their large land holdings being broken up into smaller parcels made him unpopular and his political career was short lived as a result.

---

### John Joseph

---

John Joseph was a black American and, like so many others who came to the goldfields, his origins are unclear. Joseph was the first rebel to be tried and it was assumed that jurors would be happy to convict him based on his race. The involvement of Americans at Eureka was significant, and while other Americans who were arrested received consular support and were freed, John was abandoned by his country and sent to trial. His acquittal was widely celebrated and on exiting the courthouse he was carried on a chair through the streets of Melbourne amidst a throng of 10,000 people.

'The announcement of the verdict of the jury was received with the most vociferous demonstration of applause... Joseph was immediately surrounded by hundreds of friends who welcomed him with the most lively manifestations of joy.'

'Friday, 23rd February 1855', *The Age*, Melbourne, 24 February 1855.

### Thomas Kennedy

---

Thomas Kennedy was a friend of James Scobie. At the burning of the Eureka Hotel he cried out that he could tell that James Scobie's ghost was nearby, and swore to seek revenge for the murder of Scobie. Kennedy became involved in the miners' reform actions following the death of Scobie. He tried to enlist Creswick miners to support the rebels but this support arrived after the event.

### Peter Lalor

---

Peter Lalor came from a politically active family in Ireland. He arrived in Victoria in October 1852 and first worked as a railway engineer in Geelong before starting a business selling wine, spirits and other provisions. By 1854 he was digging for gold at Eureka Lead.

Lalor was one of those urging miners to burn their licences and stand up to the authorities. He asked them to swear an allegiance to the Southern Cross, organised weapons and supplies and led the building of the stockade. During the battle, Lalor was hit by a musket ball in his left shoulder and lost a large amount of blood. His arm had to be amputated. By November 1855, when the Legislative Council was enlarged to include representation from the goldfields, Lalor was elected to represent Ballarat.

### Charles MacMahon

---

Captain Charles MacMahon was acting Chief Commissioner of the Victoria Police during the events of 1854. This was a difficult position to hold, as it was hard to recruit respectable men to fill police ranks. Many recruits were ex-convicts and unlucky gold seekers keen to make money any way they could. Often accused of drunkenness, their aggressive methods of collecting licence fees angered miners.

MacMahon, who was only 30 years old when he was appointed, was regarded as a capable man. He was an advocate for fairer treatment of miners, with a clear grasp of the problems of the goldfields. He urged Hotham to change the gold licence system. He introduced the first police code of conduct and improved administration processes. The positive changes were too late to improve police treatment of miners before the events of the Eureka Stockade

### James Oddie

---

James Oddie is often referred to as the Father of Ballarat. Moving to Ballarat in 1851 he became one of the first gold prospectors at Golden Point. Along with his brother Thomas, he set up a store at the diggings and was present at many of the protest meetings and witnessed the battle. The brothers went on to establish an auctioneer business trading in property and money-lending. Oddie became one of Ballarat's wealthiest citizens. He founded the Art Gallery of Ballarat in 1884.

---

### Commissioner Robert Rede

---

Commissioner Robert Rede was the Ballarat Gold Commissioner at the time of the Eureka Rebellion. Commissioner Rede was willing to listen to the concerns of the miners, but was angered at the miner's involvement in the burning of the Eureka Hotel. Rede became determined to teach the miners a lesson and ordered license hunts, which he had previously opposed, to bring about a confrontation with the miners. Robert Rede released a Proclamation on 3 December 1854 after the Eureka battle:

V.R.

PROCLAMATION.

Notice.

Government Camp,

Ballarat, December 3rd, 1854

*Her Majesty's forces were this morning fired upon by a large body of evil-disposed persons of various nations who had entrenched themselves in a stockade on Eureka, and some have paid officers and men were killed or wounded. Several of the rioters have paid the penalty of their crime, and a large number are in custody. All well-disposed persons are requested to return to their ordinary occupations and to abstain from assembling in ground, and every protection will be afforded to them.*

*Robert Rede, Resident Commissioner.*

---

### Henry Ross

---

Henry Charles Ross was a Canadian digger who was active in the Ballarat Reform League. The most common claim is that it was Ross who designed the Eureka Flag. It is believed that Ross raised the flag at the Ballarat Reform League meetings on 29 November and 30 November 1854.

On the morning of the attack, Ross was back in the stockade and was fighting near the flagpole when he was shot in the groin. Later that day, he bled to death from his wounds on a sofa at the Star Hotel. Ross is one of the miners buried at Ballarat Old Cemetery.

---

### George Scobie

---

George Scobie arrived in Victoria with his younger brother James in late 1852. Scobie felt he was responsible for his brother James' death, as he was not with him when he was murdered. He was very supportive of the miners and their cause. He fought on the side of the diggers and successfully escaped after the battle. He hid out for a brief time at Phoebe Emmerson's store on the diggings. He remained in hiding until a general amnesty was proclaimed for all participants. In 1860, he married Phoebe Emmerson.

## Clara Seekamp

---

Clara Seekamp was a singer and theatrical entrepreneur who was the de facto wife of Henry Seekamp, Editor of *The Ballarat Times*. She took over as editor after Henry was imprisoned for seditious libel: the crime of inciting people to rebel against the government. She arranged a petition to have her husband freed, and he was released after three months due to this public outcry.

After the battle, when Governor Hotham tried to blame foreigners for the Eureka Rebellion, Clara Seekamp wrote in the paper:

*'What is this country else but Australia? Is it any more England than it is Ireland or Scotland, France or America, Italy or Germany? Is the population, wealth, intelligence, enterprise and learning wholly and solely English? No, the population is not English, but Australian. The youngest immigrant is the latest Australian.'*

The Ballarat Times, 1 January 1855

## William Stawell

---

William Stawell was the prosecutor during the Treason Trials.

## Captain John Thomas

---

Captain Thomas was a member of the 40th Regiment at Ballarat. A battle-hardened soldier Captain Thomas used his knowledge of warfare to plan a surprise attack on the diggers. He did not wait for reinforcements from Melbourne to arrive, instead he led the attack at the stockade in the early hours of 3 December 1854. He felt the need to attack before the diggers had time to prepare.

## Frederick Vern

---

Although he did not fight at Eureka, Frederick Vern was one of the leaders during the Eureka Stockade uprising. He was Sub-Treasurer of the Ballarat Reform League and in November 1854 Vern proposed a Ballarat Reform League resolution. After the Eureka Stockade battle, Vern was accused of High Treason.

*Colonial Secretary's Office, Melbourne, 11th December, 1854.*

£500 REWARD for the apprehension of Frederick Vern. – Whereas a man known by the name of Vern has unlawfully, rebelliously, and traitorously levied and arrayed armed men at *Ballaarat, in the Colony of Victoria, with the view of making was against Our Sovereign Lady the QUEEN: Notice is hereby given that whoever will give such information as may lead to the apprehension of the said Vern, shall receive a reward of £500, being the reward offered by Sir ROBERT NICKLE. By His Excellency's Command, JOHN FOSTER.*

*Description of Vern. – Tall, about 5 feet 10 ½ inches, long light hair falling heavily*



*on the side of his head, little whisker, a large flat face, eyes light grey or green and very wide asunder. Speaks with a strong foreign accent. A Hanoverian by birth, about 26 years of age. A warrant has been issued*

---

### Henry Wise

Captain Henry Christopher Wise, was born in Rome, Italy and was the son of an English clergyman. He completed officer training at the Royal Military College at Sandhurst. By 1853, he was a Captain in the 40th Regiment. He was 26 years old when he led men from the 40th Regiment, along with the mounted police, in the attack on the stockade.

Officers would lead from the front to set a good example to their men – this made them easy targets. After being shot in the leg, Wise was able to stand again, but was hit a second time, this time shattering the bone. Doctors amputated his leg, but he developed an infection and died on 21 December 1854.

---

### Ellen Young

Ellen Young was called the Ballarat Poetess. She wrote poetry describing life in London and on the Ballarat goldfields. Her poems show she was educated, religious and interested in current affairs.

For many on the goldfields, gold proved hard to find, food was in short supply and the colonial government appeared to ignore the miner's concerns. In her 1854 poem, 'A Diggers Lament', Young turned these grievances into a call for political action. Many of her letters and poems were published in *The Ballarat Times* and *The Geelong Advertiser*. The newspapers willingly gave voice to her political views and the grievances of miners.

---

## BONUS ACTIVITY

### History 3–6 Historical Concepts and Skills

Choose ONE of the key people in the Eureka and create one of the below from the perspective of those people.

Include 3 events from the timeline (see Eureka Timeline) to talk about or portray from the perspective of your chosen person:

A series of VLOG's (Video journal)

A stop motion film

A comic strip

A series of journal entries

A play to enact in front of your classmates

Or can you suggest another way to tell these important stories?

**EUREKA  
CENTRE**  
BALLARAT

**ART GALLERY  
OF BALLARAT**

**EUREKA EDUCATION**

W [eurekacentreballarat.com.au](http://eurekacentreballarat.com.au)

E [eurekaeducation@ballarat.vic.gov.au](mailto:eurekaeducation@ballarat.vic.gov.au)

T 03 5333 0308

**ART GALLERY OF BALLARAT EDUCATION**

W [artgalleryofballarat.com.au](http://artgalleryofballarat.com.au)

E [artgalleryeducation@ballarat.vic.gov.au](mailto:artgalleryeducation@ballarat.vic.gov.au)

T 03 5320 5782