

Early History of Bargo

The area of what is today Bargo or more correctly spelled "Ngargu" an aboriginal place name, was first occupied by the cattle of Captain Raine, a sea captain, who, after taking Governor MacQuarie, his wife and son to England in 1822, returned to N.S.W. and took up a tremendous tract of country, the centre of which would accord with the present site Baborne.

With the establishment of runs or "squattling" on crown lands, Bargo became part of the old Davy's Plains run of 64,000 acres. This famous run was first taken up by William Lawson, Jr. The early settlers of Bargo were the station hands, shepherds and others employed on this "station." ~~In~~
In 1858 a description of the Orange-Namania was as follows:

"In the road from Orange you proceed to Coffey Hill sheep station (Mr Baxter) then following the range to Bargo station (Mr Lawson) leaving Davy's Plains on the right. You have a level to Megong station (Mr Clements) from thence to the little bald Hill gap, meeting the Waugan road,

three miles from Nanaima."

Of the first (find) of gold there is little evidence probably in the early 60^s. Towards the end of 1868 diggers began to arrive but lack of water prevented the development of the field.

About the beginning of February 1869, rain fell and the cargo correspondent of the "Western Post," reported that the aspect of things had completely changed following the rain and digging was going on briskly and everyone appeared to be making more or less gold. From that time the gullies, and later, the reefs around cargo yielded a rich harvest of the precious metal.

In the wake of the diggers came the business people and the settlement along the creeks grew into the town of cargo, a busy, thriving mining community.

Site of the cargo goldfield.

The article says the boundaries of the first area, proclaimed on 11th February 1869, commenced at the N.W. corner at cargo corner of a property then being subject to a conditional purchase by a gentleman named J. Stastigan. The boundary then ran

- a bearing west for 3 miles; on the west by a line bearing north 5 miles 36 chains; on the north by a line crossing Bowen creek, this boundary being identical with an old lease no 33 of the old pastoral district of Wellington.

The boundary had a bearing east of 5 mile, where a line bearing south, five miles, 36 chains joined with a lease (no 36) boundary, which in turn connected to a line bearing west and crossing Largo creek and so linking up with a point of commencement.

On 20th May 1873 the considerable mining activities then in existence led to a westerly extension being proclaimed, this taking in a new belt of country which commenced at the S.W. corner of the old Largo goldfields and extended 8 miles to a blind gully junctioning with Mandagery creek at Longs corner; on a part of the western boundary by a line bearing north to that junction and thence to the remainder of the west and the north by Mandagery, Bull and Bowen's creek upwards to the north boundary of the old field.

a further spread of activities led to the southerly extensions south two miles by west 5 miles, this being proclaimed 16th February 1875.

A Few Facts of some of the Early gold mines

The Ironclad mine - apparently the best known mine on the field. In 1875 it was reported that the main shaft was 270 ft. deep; in 1876 that 30 to 40 men were employed and that the main shaft was 338 feet deep. Unofficial statements record that gold worth \$ 32,000 was won from the mine prior to 1885. In 1885, 490 tons of ore were treated for a return of 154 ozs of gold. The depth of the mine was then given as 400 feet.

The Dalcoath mine: In 1875 this mine was reported as being one of the four important reefs on the field. In 1880, 28 tons of ore yielded over 45 ozs of gold.

The Goldenblad: There is mention of this mine in 1875. 77 tons of ore then yielded 67 ozs of gold valued \$1000. The mine was earlier known as the old "Rise and Shine".

The Commonwealth Gold mine: The first mention of this mine is in 1899. It had then been prospected for almost 2 years.

The Essex: This mine was first worked by A. Simons

and tasty, but the year is not mentioned.

85 tons of ore returned the sum of \$7568 after all expenses were paid

Despite the gradual closure of mines, Cargo continued through the years as a strong community for the rich farming community that surrounds it.

By courtesy of Bore Shire Council:

Command-minerals started operations for test drilling for better