

Henry Roach: the Burra Burra Mine Captain and his family

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The mining industry, by its very nature, is itinerant and ephemeral. As resources are discovered, mined and depleted, and as resource demand waxes and wanes, people with the appropriate knowledge and skills move from place to place to take up new investment and employment opportunities. This pattern has been starkly illustrated by the last two hundred years of Cornish history. Cornish miners with the expertise to break rock, support underground mine openings and to dewater mines have travelled to North and South America, South Africa, Australia, and New Zealand. The Cornish people had already experienced international mobility. Cornish Quakers, seeking freedom, had departed for Pennsylvania during the eighteenth century while others, whose actions had caused them to lose their freedom, had been transported as convicts to English colonies such as Australia.¹ From about 1820, English investors sought mining expertise to operate and manage their international resource investments and it was personnel from Cornwall's mines that they called upon.

Henry Roach (1808–1889) was one such Cornish miner. In 1832, he travelled to South America, to work at the Bolivar Mine where he became the Mine Captain in 1834. He returned to Cornwall in 1842 and, after a short time, he emigrated to South Australia, where he was appointed the Chief Mine Captain at the Burra Burra Mine in January 1847. His contribution to Australian mining and the South Australian economy was significant but he has had no biographer and there is no entry about him in the *Australian Dictionary of Biography*. Other significant Cornishmen who spent time in South America and South Australia, such as Richard Trevithick, Robert Stephenson, and Henry Richard Hancock, have been the subject of thorough biographies supported by records kept by their families and friends.²

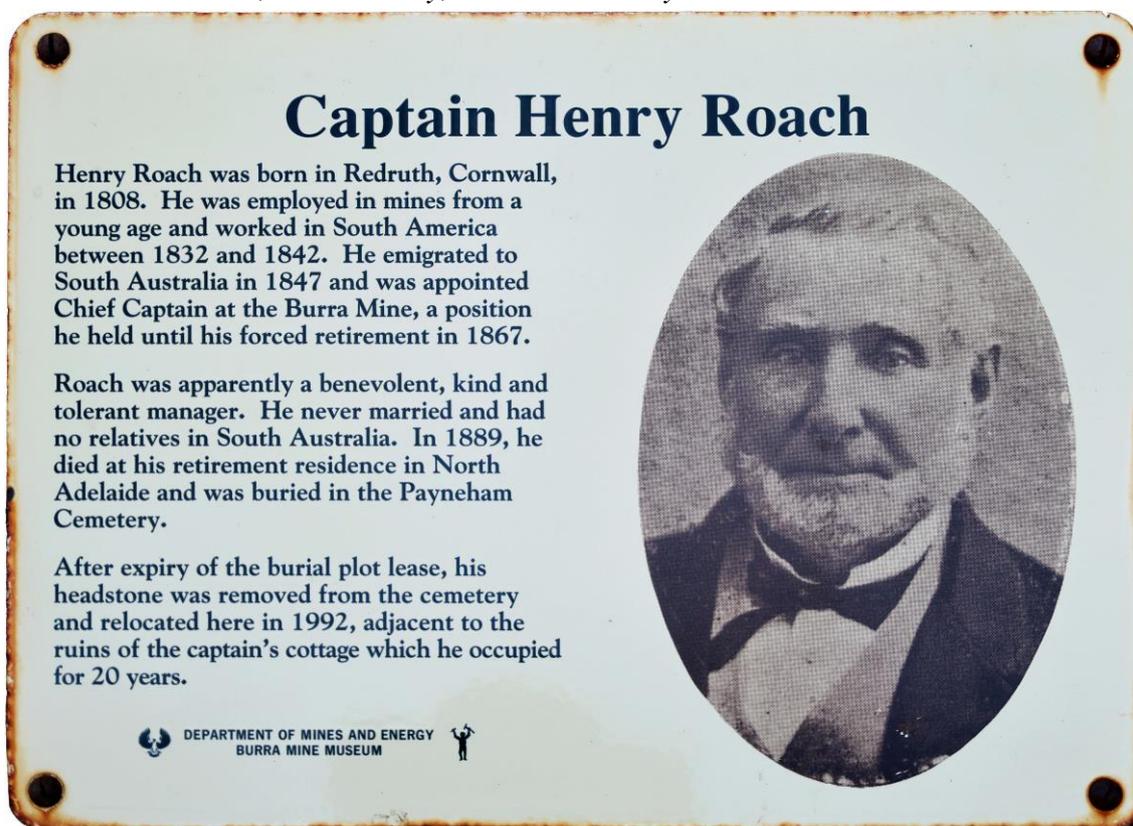
Ian Auhl's comprehensive and documented history of the Burra Burra Mine covers Roach's time as the Chief Mine Captain,³ but there is little description of the man himself, and his life before and after his time at Burra remains a mystery. Without a family collection or public repository of his papers, any exploration of his life risks being speculative.

Cornish miners were often referred to as 'Cousin Jacks' because they all seemed to be inter-related and these family relationships facilitated much Cornish migration. Henry Roach is reputed to have had no filial connections in South Australia and to have never married (Figure 1).⁴ The limited sources of information about him seem to confirm that he had no family who kept his papers.

A recent visit to the Towednack Parish Church led me to the realisation that, through my five times great grandparents, I share relationship with Henry Roach and that

my great great grandfather, Paul Roach, was his second cousin. Paul was a miner, who worked briefly at the Burra Burra Mine in 1857 before travelling to the Victorian Goldfields. There is in fact evidence that Henry Roach did have relatives in Australia in his lifetime. It is disconcerting to know that I pursued a career in mining alongside many people of Cornish descent unaware of the fact that members of the nineteenth century Roach family were predominantly Cornish miners and that some of them came to Australia. While my family was oblivious to Henry Roach, the Australian mining community has also been unaware that he had relatives in Australia. This paper seeks to identify Henry Roach's family in Australia, to investigate how it has not been recognised and to consider the implications this may have for his life story. I am well-aware of the dour reserve and fierce independence of miners of Cornish descent and I wonder to what extent that may account for this situation.

Figure 1: *The plaque at the remains of Henry Roach's cottage at Burra. In fact, he was not born in Redruth, he did marry, and he had many relatives in South Australia.*



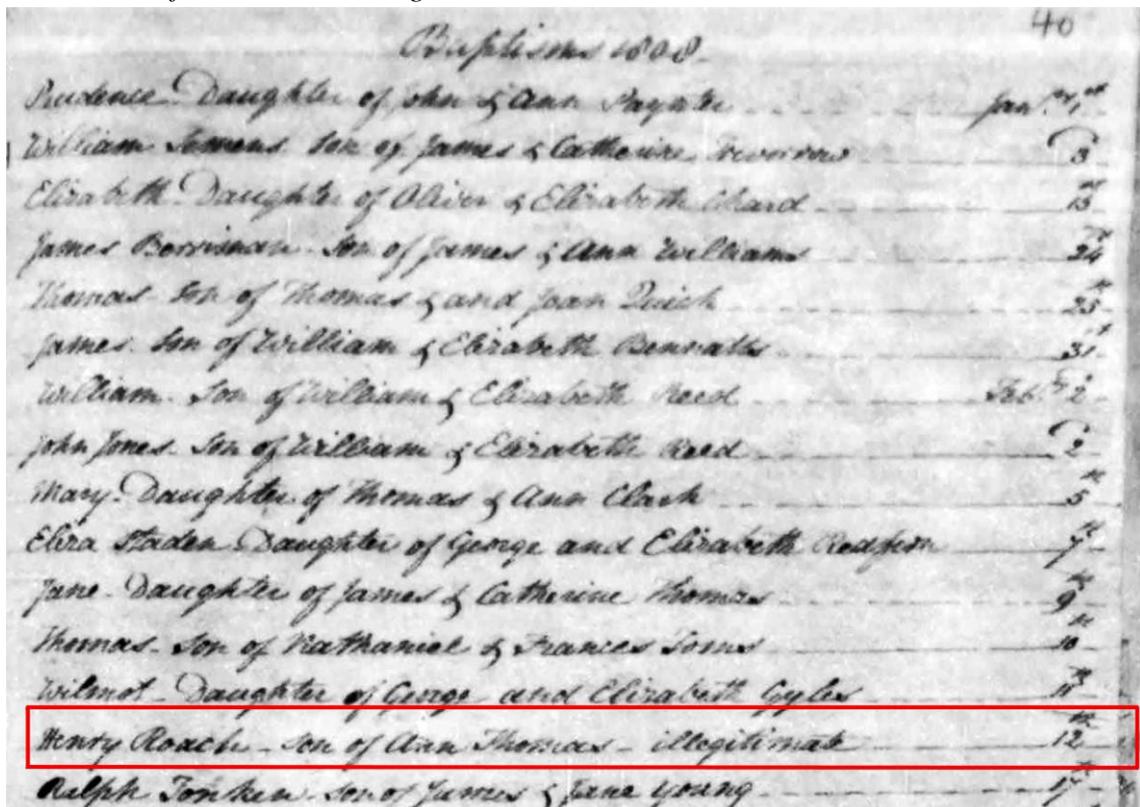
Source: The Author, September 2022.

Henry Roach's birth and parents

The circumstances of Henry Roach's birth are not very clear. His gravestone, originally at Payneham Cemetery, Adelaide, records his death as having taken place on 6 October 1889 at the age of 81, inferring that he was born in 1808.⁵ Death notices gave his age at death to be '81 years and 9 months'.⁶ The *All England, Select Births and Christenings, 1538–1975* records a christening at St Ives on 12 February 1808, at which his mother, Ann Thomas, was the only person listed to have been present and the child's name is

given as ‘Henry Roach or Thomas’.⁷ The practice of naming a child on the baptismal record with the inclusion of both parents’ surnames signified that they were not married and normally the father’s omission would indicate that he was not present at the baptism and that he was not intending to take responsibility for the child. A second record also states that Henry Roach was baptised on the 12 February in the presence of his mother, Ann Thomas, and that he was, in fact, illegitimate (Figure 2). Transcribers for the digital version of the *England, Select Births and Christenings, 1538-1975* have recorded his name to be ‘Henry Roach Thomas’.⁸ However, Henry did take the Roach surname, which means there was more to the story than the certificates alone would indicate.

Figure 2: A record of Henry Roach’s baptism on 12 February 1808 stating, ‘Henry Roach, son of Ann Thomas, illegitimate.’



Source: *England, Select Births and Christenings, 1538-1975*, FHL Film Number: 1595570 Reference ID: item 11 p. 40, FamilySearch (<https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:S3HY-DHF9-RZ9?cc=1769414&wc=3CBC-W3B%3A138123201%2C141534201%2C141570601:14> April 2015), image 123 of 145; Cornwall Records Office, Truro, accessed 21 March 2020.

Auhl gives the details of Henry Roach’s Will, which was signed about a year before his death.⁹ He left the residue from the sale of his cottage to his nephew, Henry Roach Rowe (1850–1925), who was the son of his half-sister, Louisa Rowe of Penzance (1821–1897), to whom he left his ‘gold watch, silver goblet, silver inkstand and silver egg-stand’. The Will also states that Louisa’s maiden name was Wallis indicating that Henry’s mother, Ann Thomas, later married someone with that surname.¹⁰ The Madron, Penzance Chapelry, Parish Register records that in April 1821 Louisa Thomas Wallace, daughter of Robert and Nancy was baptised.¹¹ It also records that, in the previous year, Robert

Wallis (1772–1861), a bachelor living at Madron, married Nancy Thomas a spinster also of Madron.¹² Despite the different spelling of the surname and the bride's Christian name being given as Nancy rather than Ann, there is no doubt that these females are Henry Roach's mother and half-sister.

The 1841 England Census records that twenty-year-old Louisa Rowe then lived at Madron with husband John Rowe (1818–1889) and a one-year-old daughter, Elizabeth.¹³ Henry Roach Rowe, John and Louisa's third child, was born at Penzance in 1850 and is included in the 1851 Census.¹⁴ In 1881 they were still living in Penzance and Henry R. Rowe was residing next door with his married sister, Emma Browne and family. His occupation was given as 'Bootmaker'.¹⁵ The 1911 Census records that Henry was then living with his widowed sister Emma at 44 Cecil Street Plymouth and that his occupation was 'Private Means'.¹⁶ The endowment he received from Henry Roach twenty years earlier was reported to have been £16,000.¹⁷ Henry Roach Rowe never married and died in Devon in April 1925.¹⁸ Any records associated with Henry Roach held by the Rowe family are likely to have been lost at that time.

It is necessary to find out more about Ann Thomas and to understand why Henry Roach had such regard for her family. On 24 September 1848, Ann Wallis, aged about fifty-five, was buried at Madron, Penzance Chapelry.¹⁹ The Find-a-Grave website does not include a Wallis family headstone at the Madron Parish Churchyard, Penzance Chapelry, or the Madron Cemetery.²⁰ The documented location and date, however, leaves little doubt that this was Henry Roach's mother, and the record of her age indicates that she was born in the early 1790s.

There were two babies named Ann Thomas born in St Ives in 1791 and none with that name born in the ten years before or after in St Ives or in the neighbouring parishes. One Ann Thomas was born to John and Ann. She married John Trewhella, a miner from Towednack at Lelant in June 1823 with John Thomas, father of the bride, as witness. That Ann Thomas died in 1829 at Towednack and her family had no relevant naming patterns.

It is therefore most likely that Henry Roach's mother was the other Ann Thomas, who was the fifth surviving child of Silas (1759–1799) and Elisabeth²¹ Thomas (1759–1796) who married at Lelant in 1781.²² Ann was born on 16 November 1791 and baptised on 14 October the following year.²³ It appears that her daughter, Louisa, named her own daughter Elizabeth (b. 1840) after her grandmother. Ann's parents died before she was ten years of age so, when she gave birth to Henry Roach, she was a sixteen-year-old orphan and probably had no means to support a child. There is circumstantial evidence that members of the Roach family took responsibility for young Henry, but Henry Roach (b. 1785) the biological father, was not involved. There are no further references to him to be found in Cornwall. Cornish emigration to the Americas was yet to begin,²⁴ so he probably went somewhere else in England. As there are no English records for the death of a Henry Roach, who was born in the mid-1780s, he may have changed his name. In any case, it is most likely that the Henry Roach, the subject of this article, would never have met his father.

The Roach family and Henry Roach

A Roach family belief is that they descend from Huguenots. Prior to 1700, Roach family name-forms in parish records were French supporting the possibility. The family did not live in a fixed locality until later in the eighteenth century, indicating that they were not landowners and may well have been displaced people. They first appear in the east of the county at St Wenn and St Tudy. Robert Roach (1657–1730) and wife Grace Burchell resided in Sithney from about 1685 and thereafter the family lived in the west of the county. All known Roach family employment was in resource-based industries, such as alluvial and underground mining, and clay extraction.

Robert Roach (1724–1794) married Jane Ninnes (1723–1795) at Towednack on 26 Oct 1746, signalling a move to Towednack where, until 1892, nearly all family members were baptised, even though many of them lived in other parishes or were non-conformists or dissidents. Some were also buried there. Other families represented in this way at Towednack included Baragwanath, Trewhella, Ninnes²⁵ and Quick.

Towednack was a chapelry of St Uny Lelant where, between 1782–1831, the Vicar was the Rev Dr Cornelius Cardew DD. He was also the Master of Truro Grammar and Chaplain to the Prince of Wales and it was unlikely that Towednack parishioners would have received regular pastoral attention. It is not unsurprising that the many family members followed the non-conformist traditions that might have been expected of Huguenot descendants. Henry Roach, for example, attended the Primitive Methodist Church.²⁶

Towednack was adjacent to Rosewall Hill where several underground mines commenced in the early eighteenth century. The Roaches living at Towednack became miners; Roach men were invariably described in marriage records and English Censuses from 1841 as miners. Alluvial working for tin had been carried out at Towednack since at least Roman times, but the lists of sixteenth century tanners do not include any form of the name Roach.²⁷ It appears that they came to the district during the early eighteenth century, when hard-rock underground mining was developing in that part of Cornwall. There is also a tradition that the family had spent time in southern Ireland, where underground hard-rock mining had been practised since the Bronze Age but no evidence for this claim has come to light.

Roach families were often large. Henry Roach's great grandparents Robert and Jane, for example, had fourteen children, including four sets of twins, of which at least ten lived into adulthood. Henry Roach's grandfather was the sixth son.

Clearly, Henry Roach's baptism did not follow the Roach family practice. Although his parents were unmarried, he was the first grandson of Henry Roach (1755–1801) and Jane nee Dunstone (1757–1847), and the first son of their oldest son Henry, but he was not taken the 4 km from St Ives to Towednack Parish Church for baptism, indicating that most of the Roach family, like the biological father, could not face the event. This situation appears to have had life-long consequences for Henry Roach.

An 1855 description of the Burra Burra Mine includes a short biographical note about Henry Roach stating that he came from Redruth,²⁸ but birth records make a St Ives'

birthplace certain. However, they are not so clear about the identification of the father as Henry Roach (b. 1785).²⁹

While parish records are less than conclusive about Henry Roach's connection to the Roach family, other evidence puts the matter beyond doubt. Soon after his appointment at the Burra Burra Mine in January 1847 Henry Roach was involved in the procurement of the first Cornish beam-engine in Australia.³⁰ Henry Ayers, Secretary of the South Australian Mining Association (SAMA), asked him to write to his uncle, Robert Roach (1795–1856), seeking advice about an engine for pumping water from the Burra Burra Mine.³¹ As is discussed below, he recommended an engine and associated equipment from the Perran Foundry, at Perranworthal.

Henry's uncle Robert was the third surviving son of Henry (b. 1755) and Jane Roach and was the Mine Captain at the Tresavean Mine for nineteen years. He lived at Gwennap, about 4 km from Perranworthal, so it would have been convenient for him to inspect the equipment prior to its transportation to Australia.³² If Henry was the nephew of Robert Roach, he would have been the son of one of Robert's two brothers, either Henry (b. 1785) or Paul. Paul was born in 1791, his family is known, and he is never connected to a son named Henry, so his brother Henry, whose family is not known, is almost certainly the father. Of course, it was normal for the first-born son to take the father's forename.

It is interesting that Ayers knew of this relationship, which suggests that Henry Roach had mentioned his uncle when seeking the position of Chief Mine Captain.³³ It is natural that he should have done so, and it does indicate that he was willing to use his Roach family ties. As mentioned later, two of Robert's children, Frances Ann (1837–1918) and Thomas Henry (1842–1900), cousins of Henry Roach, lived in Burra, South Australia, in the 1850s and 1860s. Although Frances named her first son, who was born in Burra, Henry Roach Pryor, neither she nor her brother were included in Henry Roach's Will. The endowing of Henry Roach Rowe in Penzance and not Henry Roach Pryor in Moonta indicates that Henry Roach had a problem with the Roach family.

Near the entrance of the Towednack Parish Church there is a tombstone-memorial (Figure 3). It reads:

IN
loving remembrance
of
JANE ROACH
who
Died March 11th
1847
aged 90 years.
This Stone is Erected by Her Grandson
Henry Roach once Manager of The
Bolivar Mines of Columbia and since
For 20 Years Managing Agent of The
Burra Burra Mine South Australia
hoping to meet her in the home above.

The inscription clearly highlights Henry's international career and affection for his grandmother.

Figure 3: *Headstone erected by Henry Roach after 1867 in memory of his grandmother, Jane Roach (1757–1847).*



Source: The Author, October 2019.

following his birth. She may even have brought him up as her husband, Henry, had died seven years before Henry Roach's birth in 1808. The tombstone may also have been a symbolic way of reporting back that he had done well in the end, implying that Jane's support of him had not been misplaced.

Figure 4: *Jane Roach's headstone erected by Henry Roach where it could not be ignored by anyone entering the Towednack Parish Church.*



Source: The Author, October 2019.

Jane Roach (1757–1847)³⁴ was probably born into the Dunstone family in the Parish of Mawnan, which is on the south coast of Cornwall, west of Falmouth. Her headstone was erected at Towednack Parish Church after 1867 and confirms that Henry Roach was a grandson of Henry Roach (b. 1755) and Jane and great grandson of Robert Roach (b. 1724) and Jane of Towednack. It also implies a complex relationship with the Roach family.

The memorial-tombstone to Jane Roach may have been Henry Roach's recognition of Grandmother Jane Roach's support during the difficult situation

The prominent siting of the tombstone-memorial suggests that its intent went beyond the recognition of Jane Roach. It is the only tombstone obvious to those entering the church and would certainly have been a bold statement to the parishioners of Towednack and to the Roach family, the precise nature of which is not immediately clear to observers today. The fact that the most conspicuous position of consecrated ground at Towednack was secured by a member of a Primitive Methodist Church in South Australia may well have involved a significant

payment. Whether there was also a reinterment is not known. Henry Roach appears to

have been declaring his achievements, which had been accomplished without the support of the broader Roach family, at their spiritual home. As it turned out, only ten more Roach children were baptised at Towednack after 1867 and there were none after 1892.

Early mining experience – Tresavean Mine

Both Auhl and Payton state that Henry Roach worked at the Tresavean Mine, but neither provide a source for the claim,³⁵ which is in keeping with the circumstances of Henry's life as we know them. The Tresavean Mine was at Lanner about 2.5 km southeast of Redruth and 2.5 km west of Gwennap. Henry Roach always claimed that he was from Redruth and his wife, Elizabeth, who had died in 1838, was buried there, so it seems to have been his Cornish home. By 1820, his mother and her family were living some distance away at Madron, and so it is possible that he may have resided with a Roach or extended family member.

The Tresavean Mine had a long and significant history, being one of the deepest mines in Cornwall and a place where the latest technologies were applied, the first 'man engine' in Cornwall, for example, was installed there in 1842.³⁶ Most references to the mine relate to its renewed operation after 1882, however, parish records report that the mine was in operation in 1738.³⁷ This first phase of operation continued until 1858. It had a first generation 'fire engine' by 1758, a Hornblower & Winwood engine in 1793 and a 60-inch engine was operating in 1820.³⁸ Henry Roach would have worked at the mine during his teenage years while attending school at night, as did Isaac Killicoat, who became a Surface Captain at Tresavean by 1828 at the age of nineteen.³⁹ He emigrated to Australia where he was the Superintendent of the Burra smelter.

Figure 5: Elizabeth Bray's tombstone at the St Euny Churchyard, Redruth.



Source:

<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/159921387/elizabeth-roach>, accessed 13 April 2022.

Robert Roach, Henry's uncle, became the Mine Captain during the 1820s. In the circumstances it may be assumed that Henry was mentored by his uncle and would have gained experience in mine management issues. As a mine that always applied the latest technologies, it was an excellent place to learn about mining and to gain experience.

Toward the end of Henry Roach's time working at the Tresavean Mine he married Elizabeth Bray (1812–1838) at Redruth on 29 October 1831.⁴⁰ She was a miner's daughter from Gwennap, which was near the Tresavean Mine, where Henry and her father may have met. She died after two years of illness in Cornwall while Henry was still serving as Mine Captain of the Bolivar Mine, Gran Columbia⁴¹. There were no children from the union. There were a number of Bray

families in Gwennap many of which would later emigrate to South Australia where some would work at the Burra Burra Mine.

Henry Roach became the Mine Captain at Burra Burra ten years after Elizabeth's death, indicating that her tombstone was erected much later. It reads: 'In Memory of Elizabeth, wife of Captain Henry Roach of the Burra Burra Mine, South Australia, who departed this life in hope of a glorious resurrection into eternal life October 17th, 1838, aged 26 years'.

Mining in South America – the Bolivar Mine

After the Battle of Trafalgar, Spanish control of its colonies in South America started to diminish and Napoleon's takeover of Spain in 1808 only hastened the decline. Irishman Bernardo O'Higgins (1778–1842) rallied the independence movement in Chile while to the north, Simón Bolívar (1783–1830) led opposition to Spanish rule so that, by 1825, Latin and South America were largely self-governing. Meanwhile in England, restrictions and tariffs on trade and international commerce were being eased, and by 1830 Latin America had become the main source of copper ore for the Swansea smelters.⁴²

English capital was raised on the London exchange and invested in the run-down Spanish mines of Latin and South America. Charles Pascoe Grenfell (1790–1867) invested in the Bolivar Mining Association, which owned a copper mine at Aroa in Gran Columbia.⁴³ Aroa is now in Venezuela, about 220 km west of Caracas. English involvement in the mine began in 1825 and in the early 1830s, Gran Columbia was the largest single source of copper ore for British smelters, producing three thousand tons in 1833 and four thousand tons two years later.⁴⁴

Grenfell's family came from St Just in west Cornwall, so to refurbish the dilapidated Bolivar Mine, he naturally engaged Cornish mining expertise. Henry Roach's terms of employment in 1832 would have been set out in a form similar to those offered to miners who later went to the El Cobre Mine in Cuba.⁴⁵ Wage levels were guaranteed and board and lodging were provided. Those accepting the offer sailed from Hayle or Portreath to Swansea where they boarded a returning ore-carrier to South America, a journey of about six weeks. Workers were engaged on fixed term contracts, and though it was not meant to be a one-way trip, tropical diseases, such as Yellow Fever, often made it so.

It is unlikely that Elizabeth, his wife of about one year, travelled with him to Gran Columbia because he was originally hired as a miner. After he became a Mine Captain in 1834, the situation may have been different. However, wages were normally paid into an English bank, providing a steady income for miners' families still in Cornwall. There were real deterrents to dependants for travel to South America because of its tropical climate and non-English speaking society. Some scholars consider this period to be the birth of the international mining labour market.

Henry was twenty-six years of age when he became Mine Captain of the Bolivar Mine. The mine presented its own set of challenges: tropical heat, problems with health, social and industrial issues including slavery, which were left over from the time of Spanish rule. Henry's promotion indicates that he had the mining experience, respect and gravitas to manage technical and stressful industrial situations in a foreign place. There

does not seem to have been a great deal of surface mining plant required at the Bolivar Mine, as it was in a mountainous region where at least some operations were above the adit level. Significantly, he would have seen how foreign investments could fail. Over three million pounds was invested in twenty-six British Mining Associations in Latin and South America during the 1820s, and most of it was lost.⁴⁶

The source of the dates for this period derive from a brief biographical comment which is to be found in an 1855 description of the Burra Burra Mine by an unnamed correspondent:

Having so far examined the surface, we will imagine the visitor arrayed in the proper dress for going below, accompanied by the kind and courteous Captain of the mine (Henry Roach), and one of the other Captains (in the present instance Richard Goldsworthy.) These are both Cornish men, the former from Redruth, and the latter from Bodmin. They have been at the mine respectively for nine and eight years. Captain Roach went from England to Columbia in 1832 as a miner for the Bolivar Company. He became Captain in 1834, and continued in that position till 1842, when he returned to England. He came to this colony in 1846, in the *Hooghly*, Captain Henry, and was almost immediately engaged at the Burra Mine.⁴⁷

South Australia – the Burra Burra Mine

Henry Roach concluded his time at the Bolivar Mine in 1842 and returned to Cornwall. There is no indication of how he spent his time in Cornwall. His Grandmother, Jane Roach, was living her last years in a home at Towednack and his mother, Ann Wallis (nee Thomas), who was much younger than her, was living her final years at Madron with her husband Robert. Louisa, Henry's stepsister, and her husband John Rowe and their two daughters were living nearby. They called their next child Henry Roach Rowe. It is therefore probable that Henry spent time with his stepsister and mother and that this was the origin of his affection for them, which was later to influence the contents of his Will.

He boarded the ex-convict ship *Hooghly* at Plymouth on 3 July 1846 and arrived at Port Adelaide on 23 October 1846.⁴⁸ The vessel brought copies of *The Times* of 2 July with its news and reports about the arrival of copper ore in England from the Kapunda Mine and the first shipment of Burra Burra Mine ore that had arrived at Gravesend aboard the *Spartan* on 20 May 1846.⁴⁹ There were many miners aboard the *Hooghly*, bringing the number brought to South Australia by the English Mining Company to five hundred. Henry Roach was probably one of them but, as the company was yet to secure any mineral bearing properties, its people were somewhat idle, and many took the opportunity to find other employment. After some negotiation, Henry Roach was appointed the Chief Mine Captain of the Burra Burra Mine in January 1847, a position he held for twenty years until the underground mine closed.⁵⁰

Auhl has documented Henry Roach's time at Burra using sources that have not been added to since he wrote. The following summary draws on Auhl to highlight Henry Roach's contribution to Australian mining.

The Mine had several superintendents, the last being Thomas Burr, who was dismissed in 1848.⁵¹ Thereafter Henry Roach was the most senior person on site with Henry Ayers fulfilling the superintendent's role in Adelaide. Matthew Bryant, who came

with Henry Roach on the *Hooghly* was the Second Mine Captain. The Directors of the SAMA did not hesitate to dismiss managers summarily for misconduct or ill-health and it was normally Henry Roach's duty to perform the deed. He was one of only a few senior employees who was not dismissed or asked to resign.⁵²

After two years, Henry Roach's position was well-established at the Burra Burra Mine. He had a prominent dwelling on site, his judgement had proved to be astute, he had addressed the mine's ground support problem, he had the groundwater issue in hand, and he clearly had the confidence of the Directors. From at least September 1849 he was lodging half-yearly reports to the Directors and these were often published by the SAMA in the Adelaide newspapers. South Australians who read news about mining would have known his name.

Above all, it appears that the workforce and the Directors trusted him; assessments of him often refer to his integrity. Auhl says that 'He was often the first captain on the scene of an accident or to contribute to the funds for needy or bereaved mining families'.⁵³ The Directors appreciated that he prudently managed their investment and the workforce felt that he cared. His generosity to the boys employed by the mine no doubt stemmed from his own experience of adolescence at the Tresavean Mine and Auhl believed that his capacity to manage the nationally and religiously diverse workforce at Burra was a legacy from his time at the Bolivar Mine.⁵⁴

Timber mine-supports

Henry Roach made several important changes to mining practice at the Burra Burra Mine. It was not strictly a 'hard rock' mine; Brown describes its geology to be:

In the deeper levels regular lodes are met with, running north and south, containing very rich ore of malachite, red oxide, and grey sulphuret of copper; but above the 30 fathom level there is no appearance of lodes, the ore (malachite and carbonate) being deposited with the greatest irregularity. The blue carbonate often occurred in round nodules, with regularly formed crystals projecting from the surface. The malachite was found in the form of stalactite, in slabs incrusting fissures and irregularly shaped masses, which had been deposited in cavities of the rocks. The country rocks are much broken and twisted, and consist of a cherty siliceous formation, crystalline white and grey limestone, blue slaty shales, and argillaceous sandstone.⁵⁵

While the ore could be quite hard in places, the surrounding rock rarely required explosives. S.T. Gill's four water-colour paintings of April 1847 are the only images that exist of the underground mine workings.⁵⁶ They depict large underground cavities with very little timber support. An 1848 report stated:

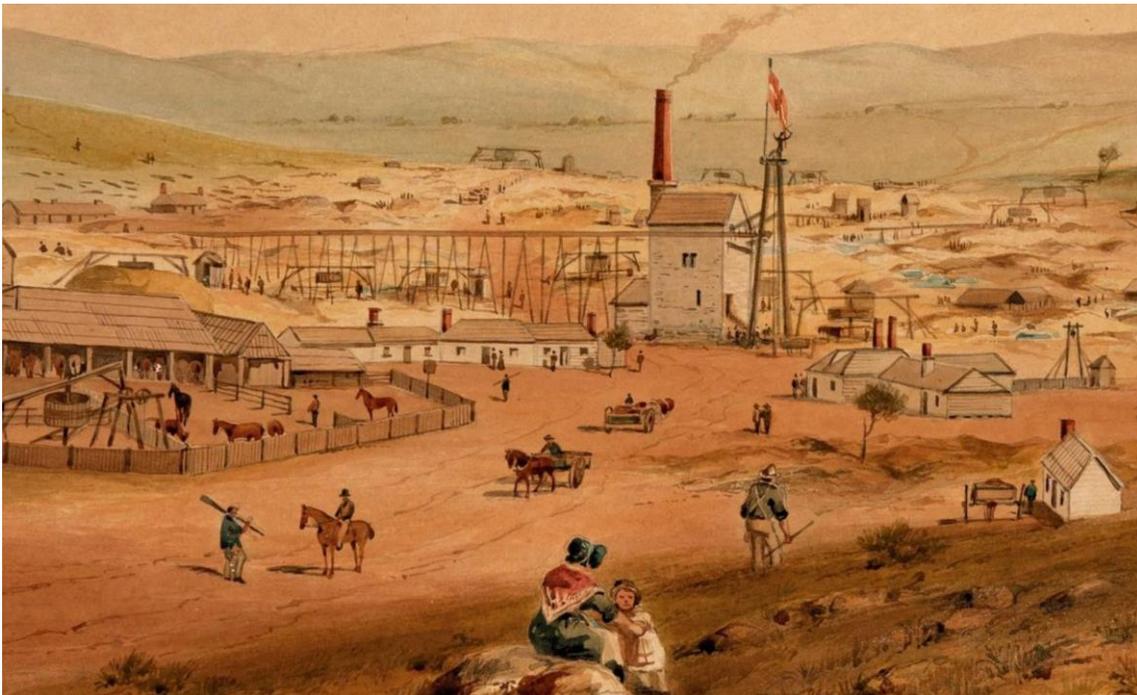
The working here has been as irregular as the disposition of the ore—large caverns have been emptied, and much danger incurred. The present captain, however, Roach, is now occupied in introducing order into confusion. His task is most difficult, but he is equal to his difficulties. Hundreds of trunks of trees are piled up one upon another to support the roof at a height of sometimes twenty and thirty feet, and rubbish is let down from the surface to fill up the cavities, and give safe access to the enormous quantity of mineral that stare you in the face in every quarter.⁵⁷

The Burra Burra Mine was heavily timbered under Henry Roach's management. Bush timber of ten to twelve inches diameter was felled up to twenty miles from Burra to provide ground support. One observer suggested that, given the softness of the country rock, the shallow depth of the ore and the cost of timber, an open cut would have been more efficient but that was not the Cornish way.⁵⁸ During the twenty-two years that the underground mine operated, there were twenty fatalities, which was low by contemporary standards. Most involved falls of rock. Henry Roach created what was regarded as a 'safe mine'.⁵⁹

Enginehouses and pitworks

Water was encountered in most shafts at about 20 fathoms and the horse whims were not able to remove enough water to lower the level. In August 1847, Henry Ayers, on the recommendation of Henry Roach, ordered a second-hand, 50-inch engine, boilers and pitwork from SAMA's agents.⁶⁰ Henry Roach's experience in South America may have led him to recommend a second-hand engine to reduce capital expenditure. Ayers normally accepted Roach's specifications without question, but this time he asked him to engage his uncle, Robert Roach, the long serving Mine Captain of the Tresavean Mine, to inspect the equipment prior to its shipment to Australia. This led to the selection of a new 50-inch engine from the Perran Foundry. Auhl has suggested that this change of plan was based on the advice of Robert Roach.⁶¹

Figure 6: *Burra Burra Mine, 1850, showing the main portion of surface operations with the Roach pumping enginehouse. Detail from ST Gill, watercolour on paper, 32.8 x 57.5 cm., AGSA, Gift of Mrs F.M. Graham and family 1947.*



Source: <https://www.agsa.sa.gov.au/collection-publications/collection/works/burra-burra-mine-sa-showing-chief-portion-of-surface-operations-1850/24375/> accessed 22 July 2022.

While Henry Roach did not superintend the erection of the engine when it arrived at Burra in April 1849, he would have personally supervised the sinking of the shaft and the construction of the pitwork that it contained. The engine was officially named the Roach Engine on 24 October 1849.⁶² The naming of the engine after Roach is significant. Normally, a member of the Board of Directors would be so honoured, as was the case for all subsequent engines built at the Burra Burra Mine. In answer to the question of why the first engine was named after an employee the minutes of the Half Yearly General Meeting of the SAMA had concluded the previous week with the resolution, 'That the thanks of the Shareholders be given to Captain Henry Roach for his efficient and zealous services in the management of the Mines'.⁶³ It appears that the mine had been through uncertain times having to deal with a miners' strike, the problem of water, and the need for ground support but following the successful construction of a reliable pumping engine, the shareholders could look forward to a profitable future. They had Henry Roach to thank for this. The naming of such a prominent feature at the mine after Henry Roach, certainly stamped his authority on the operation. Ayers may also have wished to recognise that the pump engine had been conceived and specified by at least two members of the Roach family. As the procedure for procuring such equipment from Cornwall had been successfully implemented, the way was then clear for additional machinery to be brought to the Colony. It is also possible that naming the engine was an afterthought that may have disrespected any director so chosen. When the Morphett engine was ordered ten years later, it was named before it was approved by the directors.⁶⁴

A series of engines arrived from the Perran Foundry over the following decade. A 30-inch rotative engine arrived in April 1850 and was used to power a Cornish rolls crusher.⁶⁵ Roach had the engine replaced by a water wheel in 1855. A second 30-inch rotative engine arrived in September 1850 to haul ore from Peacock's shaft.⁶⁶ Schneider's 80-inch engine began in September 1852 and a similarly sized engine, Morphett's, began in March 1860.⁶⁷ A 20-inch winding engine, also known as Morphetts, began operating in October 1861.⁶⁸ This plant was selected on the recommendation of Henry Roach and constructed with his oversight. The influence of Robert Roach, who first selected the Perran Foundry and who supported his nephew, was significant.

Henry Roach had a certain domestic capacity that may have formed during his upbringing. His house at the mine was conspicuous for the trees in the front garden and, when the contents of his Adelaide home were auctioned, in addition to furniture and a horse and carriage, gardening tools, and turkeys and chickens were listed.⁶⁹ The sale contained many personal possessions that would normally have been passed on to family members.

Henry Roach family members in South Australia

The Appendix lists the three cousins of Henry Roach, and his sixteen second cousins, most of whom had families, that lived in mining towns in South Australia, including Burra. There were over 160 such people by the time of Henry Roach's retirement. The list is not conclusive. It is therefore not correct to claim that Henry Roach had no family in South Australia (Figure 1). In fact, he was surrounded by them.

There were also other miners, such as Thomas Nannes (1813–1894), who was a Grass Mine Captain at Burra in 1849 and who was related by marriage to Thomas G. Roach (1793–1852), who was a cousin of Henry Roach's father.⁷⁰ Thomas was a great uncle of Henry Roach. Many members of both Thomas Nannes' and Thomas Roach's families took up residence on farms around Clare. There were also members of the Bray family, relatives of Henry Roach's wife in South Australian mining.

Many Roach family members in Australia spent time in Burra, where some married and most had children. Many of the second cousins were children of Thomas G. Roach and his wife, Mary, who between 1847 and 1856 came to South Australia with fifteen of their seventeen children and their families. Those who worked at the Burra Burra Mine include Thomas Roach (1817–1882), Robert Roach (1819–1873), John Roach (1820–1881), and James Roach (1826–1889). Other children settled in the farming district of Clare or went to the Victorian goldfields. In 1849, Jane Roach (1830–1895) married Malachi Deeble, a miner at Burra, who later became a well-known Mine Captain at Moonta. James was a Grass Captain at Burra and John later build a flour mill there, which was subsequently managed by his son, Henry. John and his wife Jane, have the most prominent tombstone in the Burra cemetery.⁷¹ There appear to have been at least four Roach family weddings in Burra during the 1850s and fourteen births prior to 1867. There were ample opportunities for Henry Roach to be involved with family activities in South Australia, but he did not do so.

Two children of Henry Roach's uncle Robert Roach (b. 1795) were also at Burra. Thomas Henry Roach was a miner who died at Burra in 1900. In 1863, Frances Roach joined her husband John Pryor, who was an engine driver at the Burra Burra Mine, and they called their first son Henry Roach Pryor.

On 16 January 1857, Paul Roach, his wife Eliza, and their three children, including a one-day old daughter, Mary Hannah, landed in South Australia. They made their way to Burra, where they soon had to bury Mary Hannah. Paul was a miner and a second cousin of Henry Roach, although he was twenty-one years his junior; he was the author's great-great grandfather. They do not seem to have been especially welcome at Burra and, before the year ended, they made their way to Maldon on the Victorian goldfields. Five more children were born there but only two of them lived to return with the family ten years later to Moonta, South Australia, where Paul started a Butchers shop, which still exists.

It is unlikely that Henry Roach had contact in Cornwall with his second cousins and may be excused for not engaging with them in South Australia,⁷² but it is more difficult to understand why he did not form relationships with his cousins, the children of Robert Roach his Tresavean Mine mentor. Frances clearly showed her respect for him when her first son was call Henry Roach Pryor.

It is difficult to understand the justification for the widely-held belief that Henry Roach had no relatives living in Australia at the same time that he was. This is not a recent phenomenon, as his contemporaries did not show any knowledge of his family. It seems that neither Henry nor the Roach family spoke about the relationship. From Henry's perspective, he may not have wanted the details of his family history and illegitimacy to be common knowledge, and that this, together with family familiarity with that

information may have compromised his position of authority. However, this would not have been relevant after he ceased his SAMA responsibilities, but it may have been awkward with his Adelaide circle of friends. It is acknowledged that these reasons seem weak when viewed in the light of his reputation for integrity and managerial astuteness.

From the Roach family perspective, there was significant social disparity between them and Henry Roach. He had a substantial dwelling at the Burra Burra Mine while the Roach family members endured the hardships of town life with insecure housing and high infant mortality. They might also have had the miners' inherent distrust of authority. As one of only two known Roach family members to become a Chief Mine Captain, he was no doubt the subject of suspicion and innuendo within the Roach family. His surname may have been questioned because he had not been baptised at Towednack and because his father had disappeared. Of all the Roaches in South Australia it is puzzling that there was no significant relationship between him and his cousins Frances and Thomas, Robert Roach's children. Henry Roach did not finalise his Will until the last year of his life possibly leaving the door open to other possibilities.

While many of his colleagues had embraced the Colony of South Australia and its future by engaging in political, economic and social ventures with the support of their families, this was not an option for Henry Roach. Instead, on retirement he withdrew to a suburban life. He did not share in the growing involvement of the Roach family in South Australia. When Thomas Ninnes returned from the goldfields in 1854, he purchased a farm at Clare and became a Justice of the Peace, a Municipal leader, and Wesleyan Church elder. He was surrounded by his family, including many who were also related to Henry Roach. In Burra, Captain Isaac Killicoat bought a property, immersed himself in local issues, consulted on mining and smelting and became a director of the SAMA. Without the support of a family, such opportunities would have been onerous, so when retirement came, rather than becoming a townsman Henry Roach moved into a convenient dwelling that he had built near a Primitive Methodist Church in North Adelaide. Shute's biography of Henry Ayers describes events that suggest that Henry Roach had a genuine friendship with Ayers, thus adding to the reasons for his retirement to Adelaide.⁷³

Concluding comments

Henry Roach was not an innovator and developer of new mining equipment and systems but he judiciously applied the knowledge and principles of Cornish mining that he had learned. All assessments of him refer to his integrity, honesty and fairness. The indications are that he grew up without his biological father and with limited input from his mother. Such children learn to manage adults from an early age. They often do not have the opportunity to play and simply have fun but they do come to know how to reason with grown-ups. It appears that Henry Roach had a cool head under pressure, a determination to be a successful Mine Captain and a commitment to resolve issues without confrontation. The people who brought him up instilled in him respect for others and honesty. It was these qualities that enabled him to manage a major mining enterprise in turbulent times without industrial or engineering catastrophes. In later times, a prerequisite for a Mine Manager's certificate was a reference testifying to the applicant's

sobriety, formalising the importance of a steady temperament. Mines are innately dangerous places and competent and unflappable management is essential.

A tribute to Henry Roach by a Melbourne correspondent published in the *Burra Record* concluded by saying:

I entertain the highest opinion of Captain Roach; it may be said that he made the Burra; for years he had no easy task; he worked hard and was loved and respected; he has left behind no stately cathedral to record his death; no pyramid to treasure his name; but when the history of the Burra is written his name will stand prominent. He stood unhurt amidst the shafts of jealousy; amongst the arrows of petty spleen and spite and when discordant elements waged war, he stood firm; friends could flatter and foes might frown, but he did his duty. He lives yet, not alone in the hearts of those who knew and loved him on earth, but far away, beyond where blazing comets flash their singular light; beyond where innumerable stars gem-flower the firmament, and past decaying planets, which have lost their effulgence, straight to the heaven he loved so well; canopied by inter-arching rainbows of glory, surrounded by the magnificence of saints and guarded by the watchful cherubium winged with eyes, he rests in peace.⁷⁴

Earlier in his tribute the author wrote that the last letter he received from Henry Roach concluded with the words, 'Let all the world say what they will, speak of me as you find'. As the author described in the above quotation, this reference has been normally thought to be to the animosities that resulted from his managerial duties as a Mine Captain. The tribute author mentions friends and foes, but not family, in relation to Henry Roach's final words. It is possible that Henry Roach had the Roach family in mind. The author was aware that Henry Roach was a widower, something not generally appreciated in South Australia, but he did not seem to know about his family circumstances. It appears that this was not something Henry Roach talked about.

Consequently, when Henry died on 6 October 1889, the main contributors to his funeral arrangements and obituaries were his Burra Burra Mine business associates, led by Sir Henry Ayers KCMG a former Premier of South Australia, and the only tribute to him published in South Australia's 'Little Cornwall', partly quoted above, was written by a non-Cornish person from Melbourne.⁷⁵ He left three tombstones, his own now at Burra, his wife's at St Euny Churchyard Redruth, and his grandmother's at Towednack. His mother's tombstone has not been located.⁷⁶ While all his possessions were sold after his death, his papers were not mentioned. They were either destroyed during his lifetime, or by the people who received them. When Henry Roach Rowe died in Plymouth in 1925, there were no living family members who had any cause to remember him. Hopefully that will not remain the case.

Acknowledgements:

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Appendix

Below are cousins and second cousins of Henry Roach who were in Australia by 1864 and their children. The dates on the left indicate the year of their arrival in Australia. Throughout 'Burra' refers to 'Kooringa'. The list is not necessarily complete. The places of death are especially interesting as mining localities and the Clare district dominate.

Uncle of Henry Roach:

Robert Roach (1795–1856) d. Gwennap, and Frances Roach (1800–1880) d. Harris's Mill, Redruth.

Cousins (children of Robert Roach) and their families:

- 1863 Frances Ann Pryor nee Roach (1837–1918) b. Redruth m. 1861 Redruth d. Moonta, SA and
1861 John Pryor (1838–1907) b. Redruth d. Moonta SA (Engine Driver)
 Sarah Jane Pryor (1864–1869) b. Burra, SA d. Kadina, SA
 Henry Roach Pryor (1867–1870) b. Burra, SA d. Kadina, SA
 Thomas John Pryor (1869–1914) b. Kadina, SA d. Perth, WA
 Robert Henry Pryor (1871–1871) b. and d. Wallaroo, SA
 Joseph Henry Pryor (1872–1946) b. Wallaroo, SA d. Eastwood, SA
 William James Pryor (1874–1892) b. and d. Moonta, SA
 Robert Roach Pryor (1876–1919) b. Moonta, SA d. Wallaroo, SA
 Frances Elizabeth Roach Pryor (1881–1882) b. and d. Moonta, SA
1858 Thomas Henry Roach (1842–1900) b. Redruth d. Burra, SA (Miner) and
 Monica Eliza Roach nee Lipsett (1851–1929) b. Kensington, SA m. 1874 Clare d. Broken Hill,
 NSW
 Edward Shanklin Roach (1878–1972) b. Adelaide d. Sydney
 Frances Monica Roach (1882–1958) b. Saddleworth, SA d. Medindie, SA
 Hilda Florence Roach (1884–1971) b. Saddleworth, SA d. Medindie, SA
 Gladys Myra Roach (1886–1981) b. Saddleworth, SA d. Adelaide
 Enid Gwendoline Roach (1889–1890) b. and d. Saddleworth, SA
 Ilma Vera Roach (1892–1973) b. Saddleworth, SA d. Vale Park, SA

Uncle of Henry Roach:

Paul Roach (1791–1847) d. Lelant, and Wilmot Roach nee Edwards (1797–1880) d. Lelant

Cousin (child of Paul Roach):

- 1857 James Roach (1836–1919) b. Lelant m. 1864 Castlemaine, d. Fitzroy Vic.
 Jeanette Roach nee Lee (1843–1930) d. Fitzroy, Vic.

First Cousin once removed of Henry Roach:

1848 Thomas G. Roach (1793–1852) b. Towednack d. Penwortham, SA (Tin Miner and farmer) and

1848 Mary A. Roach nee Thomas (1798–1863) b. Zennor, m. 1817 St Ives d. Penwortham, SA

Second Cousins (children of Thomas G Roach) and their families:

- 1856 Thomas Roach (1817–1882) b. Towednack d. Moonta, SA (Miner) and
1856 Elizabeth Bird (1819–1885) b. Shropshire m. 1844 Wales d. Moonta, SA
 Elizabeth Polkinghorne nee Roach (1845–1909) b. Wales d. Curramulka, SA
 Thomas Roach (1847–1858) b. Wales d. Burra, SA
 William Roach (1849–1930) b. Wales d. Brighton, SA
 Mary Tinsley nee Roach (1852–1930) b. Wales d. Millswood, SA
 Sarah Roach (1856–1927) b. Murray District, SA d. Millswood, SA
1848 Robert Roach (1819–1873) b. Towednack d Moonta, SA (Miner) and
1838 Mary Roscrow (1821–1868) b. England m. 1849 SA d. Moonta SA
 Phillippa Roach (1851–1922) b. Burra, SA d. Prospect SA
 Margaret Mary Roach (1853–1918) b. Burra, SA d. Broken Hill, SA

- Robert Roach (1855–1856) b. and d. Burra, SA
William Roach (1856–1919) b. Burra, SA d. White Hills, Bendigo, Vic
- 1847 John Roach (1820–1881) b. Towednack d. Burra, SA (Miner) and
1847 Jane Mary Roach nee Hosking (1817–1896) m. 1847 Bath d. Burra, SA
Mary Uren Roach (1848–1857) b. Burra, SA d. Penwortham, SA
Annie Jenkyns Roach (1851–1929) b. Burra, SA d. Unley, SA
Jane Brummitt nee Roach (1853–1942) b. Burra, SA d. Adelaide
John Roach (1856–1916) b. Penwortham, SA d. Drowned Brighton Beach, Adelaide
Henry Roach (1858–1936) b. Penwortham, SA d. Adelaide
Francis Henry Roach (1858–1935) b. Penwortham, SA d. Cessnock, NSW
Thomas Roach (1861–1912) b. Penwortham, SA d. Kapunda SA
- 1848 Mary Nannes nee Roach (1822–1863) b. Towednack d Skillogolee Creek, SA and
1848 Joseph Nannes (1820–1903) b. Towednack m. 1847 Lelant d. Penwortham, SA
Joseph Nannes (1851–1905) b. Penwortham, SA d. Terowie, SA
Mary Roach Nannes (1852–1853) b. Penwortham, SA d. Penwortham, SA
Thomas R Nannes (1854–1904) b. Penwortham, SA d. Broken Hill, NSW
William George Nannes (1857–1858) b. and d. Skillogalee Creek, SA
William John Nannes (1859–1931) b. Skillogalee Creek, SA d. Blyth, SA
Sarah Mary Nannes (1860–1949) b. Skillogalee Creek, SA d. Norwood SA
- 1851 William Roach (1823–1859) b. Towednack d. Adelaide (Miner) and
1851 Mary Roach nee Hall (1826–1909) b. Turo m. 1853 Adelaide d. Adelaide
Victoria Roach (1854–1854)
Fanny Roach (1855–1855) b and d. Castlemaine, Vic.
Sarah Roach (1856–1915) b. Forest Creek, Vic. d. Adelaide
William Roach (1857–1876) b Castlemaine, Vic. d. Adelaide
Bessie Mary Roach (1859–1936) b Adelaide d. Rose Park, SA
[Henry Roach (1825–1838) b. Towednack d. Lelant]
- 1848 James Roach (1826–1889) b. Towednack d. Terowie, SA (Grass Captain, Burra) and
1848 Mary Roach nee Dunstan (1833–1902) b. Wendron m. 1851 Burra d. Terowie, SA
James Roach (1851–1930) b. Burra, SA d. White Hut, SA
Thomas Roach (1853–1867) b. Ballarat, Vic. d. White Hut, SA
Mary Jane Roach (1855–1935) b. Castlemaine, Vic. d. Naracoote, SA
William Dunstan Roach (1857–1935) b. Ballarat East, Vic. d. Terowie, SA
Frances Hanton nee Roach (1859–1933) b. Bomburnie, SA d. Toorak, SA
Henry Roach (1862–1949) b. Burra, SA d. Adelaide
Elizabeth Roach (1865–1962) b. Burra, SA d. Adelaide
John Paul Roach (1867–1880) b. White Hut, SA d. Terowie, SA
Albina Roach (1869–1972) b. White Hut, SA d. Nelson, NZ
- 1848 Paul Roach (1829–1865) b. Lelant d. Penwortham, SA (not in 1841 Census) farmer and
1847 Susan Moon Roach nee Trenouth (1828–1917) b. St Austell m. 1853 Adelaide d. Penwortham, SA
Thomas George Roach (1854–1911) b. Adelaide d. Clare, SA
Catharine Roach (1856–1949) b. Penwortham, SA d. Adelaide
Susan Roach (1857–1938) b. Penwortham, SA d. Palmerston, NZ
Sarah Jane Roach (1858–1943) b. Penwortham, SA d. Cobdogla, SA
Mary Anne Roach (1860–1922) b. Penwortham, SA d. Penwortham, SA
Frances Helena Roach (1863–1884) b. Penwortham, SA d. Penwortham, SA
Paul Roach (1864–1865) b. Penwortham, SA d. Penwortham, SA
- 1848 Jane Thomas Deeble nee Roach (1830–1895) b. Lelant m. 1849 Burra d. Adelaide, SA and
1846 Malachi Deeble (1822–1904) b. Kenwyn d. Adelaide, SA (Mine Captain)
Malachi Deeble (1850–1853) b. SA d. Mile End, SA
Sarah Roach Deeble (1854–1930) b. Burra, SA d. Mosman, NSW
Jane Deeble (1856–1943) b. Burra, SA d. Glenelg, SA
James Thomas Deeble (1858–1885) b. Skillogolee Creek, SA d. Moonta, SA

Henry Roach: the Burra Burra Mine Captain and his family

- William Henry Deeble (1861–1945) b. Skillogolee Creek, SA d. Hyde Park, SA
Herbert John Deeble (1863–1945) b. Kurilla, SA d. Wayville, SA
Agnes Ann Deeble (1865–1866) b. and d. Moonta, SA
Malachi Deeble (1869–1914) b. Moonta, SA d. Mile End, SA
- 1848 Sarah Bruse nee Roach (1832–1902) b. Towednack m. 1850 SA d. Gawler South, SA and
1846 Wilhelm Ludwig Heinrich Bruse (1822–1891) b. Rostok, Germany d. Burra, SA
William Ludwig Bruse (1851–1854) b. and d. Murray District, SA
Sarah Roach Bruse (1852–1854) b. and d. Murray District, SA
- 1848 Frances Pascoe nee Roach (1833–1921) b. Lelant m. 1853 Penwortham, SA d. Clare, SA and
1848 Thomas Pascoe (1830–1918) b. Crowan, d. Adelaide
Thomas Roach Pascoe (1854–1854) b. Camp, Vic d. White Hut, Clare SA
Francis Pascoe (1855–1935) b. White Hut, Clare, SA d. Firle, SA
Frances Anne Pascoe (1857–1931) b. White Hut, Clare, SA d. Mosman, NSW
Thomas Pascoe (1859–1939) b. White Hut, Clare, SA d. Joslin, SA
William Bruse Pascoe (1860–1903) b. White Hut, Clare SA d. Adelaide
Mary Roach Pascoe (1862–1948) b. White Hut, Clare SA d. Kadina, SA
Sarah Bruse Pascoe (1863–1868) b. and d. White Hut, Clare SA
Elizabeth Willey Pascoe (1865–1934) b. White Hut, Clare SA d. Adelaide
Paul Roach Pascoe (1867–1944) b. and d. White Hut, Clare SA
Sarah Jane Pascoe (1868–) b. White Hut, Clare SA d. ?
Joseph John Pascoe (1870–1960) b. White Hut, Clare SA d. Chatswood, NSW
Ella Louise Pascoe (1872–1873) b. and d. White Hut, Clare SA
Hedley Havelock Pascoe (1874–1879) b. and d. White Hut, Clare SA
Ethelwynn Maud Pascoe (1874–1942) b. White Hut, Clare SA d. Canowie Belt, SA
Sydney Harcourt Pascoe (1878–1957) b. and d. White Hut, Clare SA
- 1848 Isaac Roach (1834–1895) b. Towednack d. Broken Hill, NSW and
1847 Mary Roach nee Moyle (1835–1883) b. Cornwall m. 1854 Ballarat, Vic. d. Riverton, SA
William Henry Roach (1855–1920) b. Ballarat, Vic. d. Gilberton, SA
Sarah Oliver Roach (1857–1933) b. Penwortham, SA d. Seacliff, SA
Thomas Roach (1858–) b. Clare, SA d.?
Elizabeth Jane Roach (1859–) b. Clare, SA d.?
Isaac Roach (1861–1861) b. and d. Clare, SA
Isaac Roach (1862–1930) b. Clare, SA d. Parkside, SA
Mary Louisa Roach (1863–1865) b. and d. Clare, SA
Paul Roach (1865–1866) b. and d. Clare, SA
Fanny Louisa Roach (1867–1925) b. Clare, SA d. Parkside, SA
Alice Maud Roach (1869–1869) b. and d. Clare, SA
Horace Leonard Roach (1870–1871) b. and d. Clare, SA
Laura Ella Roach (1871–1872) b. and d. Clare, SA
[Jacob Roach (1834–1834) b. and d. Towednack]
- 1848 Jacob Roach (1837–1894) b. Lelant d. Moonta, SA, and
1848 Mary Pearce Roach nee Ninnes (1841–1919) b. Towednack m. 1862 Clare, SA d. Moonta, SA
Martha Maria Roach (1863–1919) b. Penwortham, SA d. Clare, SA
Thomas Ninnes Roach (1865–1908) b. and d. Moonta, SA
Ada Mary Roach (1867–1961) b. Moonta, SA d. Chatswood, NSW
Laura Annie Roach (1870–1890) b. and d. Moonta, SA
Thomas Matthew Howard Roach (1873–1873) b. and d. Moonta, SA
Beatrice Matilda Roach (1874–1953) b. Moonta, SA d. Beaumont, SA
Stanley Jacob Roach (1877–1881) b. and d. Moonta, SA
Leonora Mabel Ninnes Roach (1881–1974) b. Moonta, SA d. Digby, Vic.
- 1848 Henry (Burns) Roach (1841–1896) b. Lelant d. Broken Hill, NSW and
1845 Sophia Fredrica Roach nee Wege (1838–1913) b. Germany, m. 1864 Koorunga d. Adelaide

- Bertie Smith Roach (1864–1944) b. Penwortham, SA d. Adelaide
Mary Elsa Roach (1865–1947) b. Penwortham, SA d. Henley Beach, SA
Sarah Sophia Bailey nee Roach (1867–1941) b. Penwortham, SA d. Broken Hill, NSW
Henry Peter Roach (1869–1912) b. Penwortham, SA d.
Frederick Ernest Ludwig Roach (1871–1890) b. Clare, SA d. Moonta, SA
Jacob Livingstone Roach (1872–1949) b. Moonta, SA d. Ryde, NSW
Edith Lilian Bradbury nee Roach (1874–1965) b. Moonta, SA d. Hurstville, NSW
Gertrude Louisa Docherty nee Roach (1876–1958) b. Moonta, SA d. Chatswood, NSW
Henry Norman Roach (1879–1939) b. Moonta, SA d. Epping, Vic.
Lily May Bruse Higgins nee Roach (1880–1952) b. Moonta, SA d. North Sydney
John Frank Roach (1881–1900) b. Moonta, SA d. Broken Hill, NSW
- 1848 Matthew Roach (1842–1884) b. Towednack d. Moonta, SA and
Alice Roach nee Rendle (1851–1912) b. London m. 1879 Adelaide d. Rose Park, SA
Alice Dora Roach (1880–1892) b. Moonta, SA d. Rose Park, SA
Sarah Millicent Roach (1881–1941) b. Moonta, SA
Matthew Howard Roach (1883–1970) b. Moonta, SA
Rupert Matthew Roach (1884–1884) b. and d Moonta, SA
- 1848 Peter Thomas Roach (1844–1913) b. Towednack d. Kilkenny, SA and
Eliza Roach nee Kemp (1834–1906) b. Edingley, Notts m. 1866 Wallaroo d. Adelaide
Florence Nightingale Roach (1867–1945) b. Moonta, SA d. Goodwood, SA
Mary Jane Roach (1868–1933) b. Moonta, SA d. Goodwood, SA
Clara Roach (1869–1923) b. Moonta, SA d. Goodwood, SA
Elsie Eliza Roach (1871–1951) b. Moonta, SA d. Perth, WA
Alice Maude Mary Roach (1872–1947) b. Moonta, SA d. Mont Park, Vic.
Adeline Roach (1873–1874) b. and d. Moonta, SA
Ethel Roach (1875–1905) b. Moonta, SA d. Brighton, Vic.

First Cousin once removed of Henry Roach:

Paul Roach (1803–1877) b. Towednack d. Lelant and Mary Ninnes (1800–1873) b. Towednack d. Lelant:

Second Cousin (child of Paul Roach) and family:

1857 Paul Roach (1929–1901) b. Towednack m. 1849 St Ives d. Adelaide and

1857 Eliza Major (1830–1925) b. St Ives d. Adelaide

Paul Roach (1852–1929) b. Towednack d. Adelaide

Samuel Major Roach (1855–1937) b. Towednack d. Toorak, Vic.

Mary Hannah Roach (1857–1857) b. on ship d. Burra, SA

Eliza Major Roach (1858–1937) b. Maldon, Vic. d. Adelaide

John Roach (1861–1863) b and d. Bendigo, Vic.

Mary Roach (1863–1863) b and d. Bendigo, Vic.

John Henry Roach (1865–1865) b and d. Bendigo, Vic.

Hannah Roach (1866–1941) b. Bendigo, Vic. d. Adelaide

Endnotes

¹ Philip Payton, *The Cornish Overseas: A History of Cornwall's 'Great Emigration'*, University of Exeter Press, Exeter, 2020, pp. 26–51.

² Francis Trevithick, *Life of Richard Trevithick, with an account of his inventions*, 2 volumes, E. & F.N. Spon, London/New York, 1872; Samuel Smiles, *The life of George Stephenson and of his son Robert Stephenson; comprising also a history of the invention and introduction of the railway locomotive*, Harper, New York, 1868; Oswald Pryor, 'Hancock, Henry Richard (1836–1919)', *Australian Dictionary of Biography*, National Centre of Biography, Australian National University, <https://adb.anu.edu.au/biography/hancock-henry-richard-3706/text5813>, published first in hardcopy 1972, accessed online 24 September 2022; Oswald Pryor, *Australia's Little Cornwall*, Rigby, South Australia, 1962; Mandie Robinson, *Cap'n 'Ancock: Ruler of Australia's little Cornwall*, Rigby, Adelaide, 1978.

- ³ Ian Auhl, *The Story of the 'Monster Mine': The Burra Burra Mine 1845–1877*, Investigator Press, Adelaide, 1986, especially pp. 237–248, 288.
- ⁴ Auhl, *The 'Monster Mine'*, p. 245.
- ⁵ http://freepages.rootsweb.com/~deadsearch/genealogy/payneham_ps.htm, accessed 8/4/2022.
- ⁶ *Evening Journal Adelaide*, 7 October 1889, p. 2.
- ⁷ FHL Film Number 0236533, 0236534.
- ⁸ For example, Online of the Parish Clerks, Records 1434562 and 6215461.
- ⁹ On 22 November 1888, Auhl, *The 'Monster Mine'*, p. 245.
- ¹⁰ State Records of South Australia, GRS 1334/1 Probate files (wills) - Testamentary Causes Jurisdiction, Supreme Court of South Australia, File 11312 – Henry Roach.
- ¹¹ On 18 April 1821, *OPC Record* 4036419.
- ¹² On 3 August 1820. *OPC Record* 583292.
- ¹³ Registration District: Penzance, Piece: 143, Book: 4, Folio: 43, Page: 6.
- ¹⁴ The 1851 and 1861 Censuses give her address to be 114 News Street, Penzance.
- ¹⁵ Address 11 Cherry Garden, Penzance, Registration District: Penzance, Piece: 23459, Folio: 192, Page: 33.
- ¹⁶ Registration District: Plymouth South West, Piece: 12979.
- ¹⁷ *West Briton and Cornwall Advertiser*, 28 November 1889, p. 11.
- ¹⁸ England & Wales, Civil Registration Death Index, 1916-2007, Registration District: St Thomas, Devon, Volume: 5b, Page: 69.
- ¹⁹ *OPC Record* 3197981.
- ²⁰ https://www.findagrave.com/cemetery-browse/England/Cornwall/Cornwall-Unitary-Authority/Madron?id=city_411378, accessed 8/August 2022.
- ²¹ Elizabeth was a common spelling of the name in St Ives in the late eighteenth century, it was also spelt Elizabeth in the records.
- ²² On 26 June 1781.
- ²³ *OPC Record* 1427560.
- ²⁴ Payton, *The Cornish Overseas*, 2020; Arthur Cecil Todd, *The Cornish Miner in America*, Bradford Barton, Truro, Cornwall, 1967.
- ²⁵ Ninnes was also often spelt Ninnis.
- ²⁶ Auhl, *The 'Monster Mine'*, p. 245.
- ²⁷ Allen Buckley, *The Tudor Tin Industry: The Tanners and Tin Works of Penwith and Kerrier Stannary*, Penherrick, Camborne, Cornwall, 2009, pp. 33–38.
- ²⁸ Auhl, *The 'Monster Mine'*, p. 238; *SA Register*, 21 March 1855, p. 2; *Adelaide Observer*, 24 March 1855, p. 3; quoted below.
- ²⁹ Baptised: 3 July 1785 Towednack, father: Henry Roach, mother: Jane, FHL Film Number 254222, *England, Select Births and Christenings, 1538-1975*.
- ³⁰ The first engine was a 35hp second-hand Bull engine at the Kapunda Mine in 1848.
- ³¹ State Library of South Australia, BRG 22/4, 28 July 1847, p. 99.
- ³² 1851 England Census Registration District: Gwennap, Piece: 1914, Folio: 331, Page: 36.
- ³³ Jason Shute has provided a personal communication stating that Roach and Ayers may have spent Christmas 1846 together. They became firm friends.
- ³⁴ A Jane Dunstone was born at Mawnan on 20 February 1760. According to the 1841 Census record, an 80-year-old Jane Roach lived at Wheal Busy (Truro, Kenwyn, Piece 147, Book 17, Folio 6, Page 4). Also in the house were John Waters (Pensioner) 45, and Mary Waters 40, and maybe John Nicholls (Copper Miner) 56, Ann Nicholes 55. The Towednack Parish Register records that she died on 14 March 1847 and that she had been living at Embla at Towednack (CRO TA/226,1842).
- ³⁵ Auhl, *The 'Monster Mine'*, p. 240; Philip Payton, *The Cornish Overseas: A History of Cornwall's 'Great Emigration'*, University of Exeter Press, Exeter, 2020, p. 175.
- ³⁶ D.B. Barton, *The Cornish Beam Engine*, D. Bradford Barton Ltd, Truro, Cornwall, 1965, pp. 208, 212.
- ³⁷ E.W.A. Edwards, 'Tresavean Mine, Lanner', *Journal of the Trevithick Society*, Vol. 32, 2005, pp. 84–101.
- ³⁸ *Ibid.*; Barton, *The Cornish Beam Engine*, pp. 19, 134, 271.
- ³⁹ Auhl, *The 'Monster Mine'*, p. 246.
- ⁴⁰ *England, Select Marriages, 1538-1973*, Marriage Date: 29 Oct 1831, Redruth, Cornwall, England, FHL Film Number: 916958, 916959.
- ⁴¹ *Falmouth Express and Colonial Journal*, 20 October 1838; *England & Wales, Civil Registration Death Index, 1837-1915*, Death Registration: Redruth, Cornwall, United Kingdom, December 1838, Volume: 9, Page: 177.

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- ⁴² Chris Evans and Louise Miskell, *Swansea Copper: A Global History*, Johns Hopkins University Press, Baltimore, 2020, p. 79.
- ⁴³ *Ibid.*, p. 81.
- ⁴⁴ *Ibid.*
- ⁴⁵ *Ibid.*, p. 84.
- ⁴⁶ J. Fred Rippy, 'Latin America and the British investment "Boom" of the 1820's', *Journal of Modern History*, Vol. 19, No. 2, 1947, pp. 122–129.
- ⁴⁷ *SA Register*, 21 March 1855, p. 2; Auhl, *The 'Monster Mine'*, p. 238.
- ⁴⁸ *SA Register*, 24 October 1846, p. 6; <https://bound-for-south-australia.collections.slsa.sa.gov.au/1846Hooghly.htm>, accessed 18-7-2022.
- ⁴⁹ *SA Register*, 24 October 1846, p. 3.
- ⁵⁰ Auhl, *The 'Monster Mine'*, p. 240.
- ⁵¹ *Ibid.*
- ⁵² *Ibid.*, p. 241.
- ⁵³ *Ibid.*, p. 242.
- ⁵⁴ *Ibid.*, p. 243.
- ⁵⁵ Henry Y.L. Brown, *A Record of the Mines of South Australia*, Government Printer, Adelaide, 1890, p. 7.
- ⁵⁶ Ian Auhl and Denis Marfleet, *Australia's Earliest Mining Era: South Australia 1841-1851 Paintings by S.T. Gill*, Rigby, Adelaide, 1975, pp. 79, 85, 91 and 97.
- ⁵⁷ *South Australian Gazette and Mining Journal*, 22 April 1848, p. 2.
- ⁵⁸ Auhl, *The 'Monster Mine'*, p. 288.
- ⁵⁹ *Ibid.*, p. 289.
- ⁶⁰ G.J. Drew and J.E. Connell, *Cornish Beam Engines in South Australia*, Department of Mines and Energy, South Australia, 1993, p. 76.
- ⁶¹ Auhl, *The 'Monster Mine'*, pp. 196, 240.
- ⁶² *The Maitland Mercury and Hunter River General Advertiser*, 21 November 1849, p. 3.
- ⁶³ *South Australian Gazette and Mining Journal*, 18 October 1849, p. 2.
- ⁶⁴ State Library of South Australia, BRG 22/4, 18 June 1857, p. 520.
- ⁶⁵ Drew, *Cornish Beam Engines in South Australia*, p. 77.
- ⁶⁶ *Ibid.*, p. 81.
- ⁶⁷ *Ibid.*, pp. 23, 78, 83.
- ⁶⁸ *Ibid.*, p. 92.
- ⁶⁹ *Evening Journal SA*, 4 November 1889, p. 4.
- ⁷⁰ Thomas Nannes' younger brother, Joseph (1820–1903), was the husband of Mary Roach (1822–1863) the oldest daughter of Thomas Roach.
- ⁷¹ *The Advertiser Adelaide* 26 February 1896, p. 6; *Burra Record* 26 February 1896, p. 3.
- ⁷² Thomas Roach and family lived at Lelant, 1841 England Census Registration district: Penzance, Sub-registration district: Uny Lelant, Piece: 142, Book: 10, Folio: 34, p. 4.
- ⁷³ Jason Shute, *Henry Ayers: the man who became a rock*, IB Taurus, London 2011, pp. 24-6; Jason has also informed me that Ayers managed Roach's finances, regularly provided hospitality to him in Adelaide, and invited him to accompany him on his trip to England in 1870.
- ⁷⁴ *Burra Record*, 29 November 1889, p. 3.
- ⁷⁵ *Ibid.*
- ⁷⁶ Ann Wallis' (nee Thomas) husband out lived her by fourteen years. This may have limited any opportunity to alter her headstone.