

## **JORDAN - DONNELLY'S CREEK - ABERFELDY**

*Alluvial mining - diggers worked creek claims in dry months and 'spur claims' during winter.*

*Jordan River - MSRs show pronounced cycle of drought and flood - one quarter, a severe 'want of water' will be reported; the next, all work will be at a standstill due to flooding - this occurs almost on an annual basis.*

**1861-2:** BB Creek and Jordan River goldfield discovered, following opening of Upper Goulburn fields. Supplies packed fifty miles from Jamieson. Township of Jericho formed at junction of Jordan River and BB Creek. Two reefs discovered by early 1862; also many Jordan tributaries - Fern Tree Creek, Red Jacket, Garibaldi (originally called One Speck<sup>1</sup>), and Wooden Fork (Dry) Creek. Donnelly's Creek, about 15 miles from Jericho, opened mid-1862. Quartz reefs discovered at Fulton's Creek, 18 miles south of Donnelly's, later in 1862, followed by rush to Sophy's Gully (a tributary).<sup>2</sup>

**c.1861:** BB Creek got its name because the earliest diggers in the area had their trousers torn to shreds making their way through the almost impenetrable undergrowth. Its full name was Bare Bollocks Creek.<sup>3</sup>

**February 1862:** An important rush has taken place to a district ten miles from the Upper Goulburn workings, and thirty miles south of Mount Bulla, contiguous to a creek denominated by the miners the River Jordan. The river runs through a flat 500 yards wide, and already a small township has been built on its banks. The bed consists of clay, slate, and, in some instances, sandstone. The flats on each side are composed of gravel, covered with rich soil, the whole of which appears to be auriferous, although the present workings are confined to the bed of the creek, and its intermediate sides. The workings on the main creek extend for fourteen miles, besides which there are numerous tributaries that are worked successfully, particularly one named Fern-tree Creek, which is ten miles long. A party of four got here 280 oz in one week. About 4,000 persons were on the ground, many of them having left the Jamieson Diggings. No authentic information respecting quartz-reefs has been received.<sup>4</sup>

**1862:** The first of numerous tracks cut to the Jordan from South Gippsland and the Upper Yarra - McEvoy's Track. Prospecting increased.<sup>5</sup>

**1862:** First rush to Aberfeldy River - township originally called Mt Lookout.<sup>6</sup>

**early 1860s:** Red Jacket township grew up on river flat at junction of Jordan, Red Jacket and Dry Creeks.<sup>7</sup>

**January 1863:** Bank claims on the Jordan paying upwards of £20 per week per man.<sup>8</sup>

**early 1863:** Reefs discovered at Edwards Hill, close to Donnelly's Creek. Population moved there. Reputed population of 3,000 in early 1860s - no sign of habitation remained in 1925 - only graves in scrub NE of township site.<sup>9</sup>

**1863:** Main mines at Donnelly's/Fulton's Creek were the White Star and Crinoline.<sup>10</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Mining Surveyors' Reports (Part of Jordan South and part of Omeo Subdivisions), June 1864

<sup>2</sup> Flett, pp. 125-9

<sup>3</sup> Tomlin, Bosa and Chamberlain, p. 76

<sup>4</sup> Mining Surveyors' Reports (Western Buckland Division), February 1862

<sup>5</sup> Bailey & Bailey, p. 5

<sup>6</sup> Tomlin, Bosa & Chamberlain, p. 120

<sup>7</sup> Tomlin, Bosa and Chamberlain, p. 102

<sup>8</sup> Mining Surveyors' Reports (Gipps Land Division), January 1863

<sup>9</sup> Bailey & Bailey, p. 6; Baragwanath, p. 13

<sup>10</sup> Bailey & Bailey, pp. 6-7

- January 1863:** Newly opened bank claims on the Jordan paying upwards of £20/week per man.
- May 1863:** Crushing mill (s?) in course of erection at Red Jacket. Reef lately discovered at BB looks promising - from position and nearness to water can be worked to great advantage. Jordan goldfields still yield handsome returns - capable of carrying double present popn. Spurs on Jordan and BB yielding 20-43 oz per paddock – stripping from 7-20 ft deep.
- May 1863:** Macmillan's crushing machine erected (brought overland by bullock wagon from Port Albert) at Donnelly's Creek - Edward's Hill?<sup>11</sup>
- 1864:** Batteries erected on Blackwall Reef and for White Star and Crinoline Cos., Donnelly's Creek. Blackwall Reef battery powered by water supplied by a long race on NW slope of Mt Useful - trial crushings disappointing - highly mineralised ore – White Star closed 1867, Crinoline closed by 1870.<sup>12</sup>
- 1864:** Blue Jacket Creek first opened up. Blue Jacket mine on south side of creek - first worked for several years from 1865, then abandoned until late 1890s.<sup>13</sup>
- December 1865:** Concord Co., Edwards Hill, installed battery - 40-hp engine, 10-head (with foundations laid for a further 10-head), tramway, shoots, &c.<sup>14</sup>
- December 1865:** Powerful' water-powered battery erected on Golden Wall Reef, Fulton's Creek.<sup>15</sup>
- 1865-7:** Population of Donnelly's Creek area diminished greatly due to mine closures and better prospects at Stringers Creek/Walhalla. Many DC mines on tribute.<sup>16</sup>
- 1865:** BB Quartz mine, located within a quarter of a mile of Jericho on the spur dividing the Jordan from BB Creek, first opened in 1865 - worked until late 1870s.<sup>17</sup>
- 1866:** MS of the opinion that working of spurs on banks of Jordan River and BB Creek would be profitable - so far, only beds of creeks had been worked. So encouraging are the results from this branch of mining (hydraulic), that almost every foot of ground on the Jordan River and BB Creek is now held under the bye-laws of the district, or the leasing regulations.<sup>18</sup>
- March 1867:** Golden Wall Co. battery (installed 1866) sold 'for a very small sum' and removed to the Scrat-a-bit prospecting claim. Concord, Ranger, Donnelly's, Bullock, Tara's Hall, Spring's Creek, Dick's Reef, Golden Union, North Mount-Useful, Independent, London Amalgamated, National, Edwards Oriental, and Golden Wall cos. have all suspended work '- cause, want of funds'. Quartz miners reverting to alluvial workings pending revival of quartz mining.<sup>19</sup>
- 1867:** At Donnelly's Creek, 'mining operations ... have still a downward tendency. The population has greatly decreased ... partly owing to the introduction of the system of working the claims upon tribute, for which less men are required.'<sup>20</sup>
- 1867:** Smile of Fortune No. 1 South claim, Jericho -battery erected, but trial crushing unsatisfactory.<sup>21</sup>

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<sup>11</sup> Baragwanath, p. 9

<sup>12</sup> Baragwanath, p. 9; Tomlin, Bosa & Chamberlain, p. 134

<sup>13</sup> Tomlin, Bosa & Chamberlain, p. 116

<sup>14</sup> Mining Surveyors' Reports (Part of Jordan South Subdivision), December 1865

<sup>15</sup> Mining Surveyors' Reports (Donnelly's Creek subdivision), December 1865

<sup>16</sup> Baragwanath, p. 10

<sup>17</sup> Tomlin, Bosa & Chamberlain, p. 83

<sup>18</sup> Mining Surveyors' Reports (Matlock Subdivision), March & June 1866

<sup>19</sup> Mining Surveyors' Reports (Donnelly's Creek Division), March 1867; Adams, p.38

<sup>20</sup> Mining Surveyors' Reports (Donnelly's Creek Division), September 1867

<sup>21</sup> Mining Surveyors' Reports (Jericho Division), June 1867

- 1867-70:** Donnelly's Creek gold yield for 1867 totalled 2,450 oz; in 1868, 760 oz; in 1870, quartz yielded only 36 oz.<sup>22</sup>
- 1868:** Eldorado Co., Jericho, erected 5-head battery.<sup>23</sup>
- September 1868:** North Crinoline mine (and battery) purchased by Bank of Victoria - renamed Victoria Co.<sup>24</sup>
- September 1868:** Hodgson's crushing plant (later Polglaise's?) erected on Red Jacket/Dry Creek to crush stone from New Chum Reef (New Chum No. 1 South and Manoa GMC) and Moonlight Reef - 17-head, steam-powered - battery ex-Smile of Fortune mine.<sup>25</sup>
- 1868:** Eldorado Reef Co., on Aberfeldy Spur, erecting second battery of five stamps.<sup>26</sup>
- 1868-69:** Donnelly's Creek mining very depressed - miners mainly reworking creek bed.<sup>27</sup>
- March 1869:** Moonlight Reef, Dry Creek (above Polglaise's battery), reopened by prospectors.<sup>28</sup>
- June 1869:** At Donnelly's Creek, two or three companies are being formed to work quartz reefs on a large scale. At Fulton's Creek some of the abandoned claims are being taken up, with a view of reworking them, as it is considered that the greater part of the gold was formerly lost through inefficient machinery.<sup>29</sup>
- 1869:** The old 'nuggetty' claims on the Jordan immediately above Jericho giving good yields.<sup>30</sup>
- 1869-70:** Harbinger Reef ('Hemphill's new reef') discovered on Dry Creek, 'immediately below Polglaise's crushing mill' - trial crushing yielded over 3 oz/ton. Three claims at work in Dry Creek vicinity - Commercial Reef, Harbinger, and Manoa (on New Chum line) - keep Dry Creek battery (Polglaise's?) busy - 17 head of stamps.<sup>31</sup>
- September 1870:** 'A new reef on the Aberfeldy, containing fine gold, and of considerable width, has been taken up within the last week ... situated four miles below the crossing of the Gippsland road'.<sup>32</sup>
- December 1870:** Harbinger Co. laying tramway to Dry Creek machine. Eldorado mine idles.<sup>33</sup>
- 1870:** Alluvial rush to 'old ground known as the Thomson River bed' - about 60 Chinese and 40 Europeans. A slight fall in the river, requiring long races to work the claims, is a great drawback to this goldfield, and will permanently keep it in a struggling condition. Fifteen feet in the mile is little fall enough where rock has to be cut, or sawn-stuff flumes erected, and does very little towards opening up for sluicing such broad tracts of land.' Company formed to construct long race - expensive undertaking.<sup>34</sup>

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22 Baragwanath, p.10

23 Mining Surveyors' Reports (Jericho Division), Sept 1867

24 Mining Surveyors' Reports (Donnelly's Creek Division), Sept 1868 & Sept 1869

25 Mining Surveyors' Reports (Jericho Division), June & Sept 1868

26 Mining Surveyors' Reports (Jericho Division), Dec 1868

27 Mining Surveyors' Reports (Donnelly's Creek Division), Dec 1868 & March 1869

28 Mining Surveyors' Reports (Jericho Division), March 1869

29 Mining Surveyors' Reports (Donnelly's Creek Division), June 1869

30 Mining Surveyors' Reports (Jericho Division), Dec 1869

31 Mining Surveyors' Reports (Jericho Division), Sept & Dec 1869, March & June 1870

32 Mining Surveyors' Reports (Jericho Division), Sept 1879

33 Mining Surveyors' Reports (Jericho Division), Dec 1870

34 Mining Surveyors' Reports (Jericho Division), Dec 1870

- 1870-97:** Toombon mine, on Toombon Creek near the Aberfeldy River, discovered 1870 by Fleming. Aberfeldy Co. erected 10-head, water-powered battery in 1872. Mine worked at intervals until 1880, then Toombon Co. formed and sunk new main shaft. 20-head battery powered by 40-ft waterwheel erected 1888 - supplied with ore by aerial tramway. Mine closed down 1898. Reached depth of nearly 1,000 ft. Total yield 50,844 oz from 61,888 tons. Largest gold-producer in Aberfeldy-Donnelly's Creek district.<sup>35</sup>
- 1870-85:** Golden Key Co. commenced work on a claim south of original workings on Morning Star Reef early in 1870 - purchased mine and plant of Victoria Co., North Crinoline Reef in 1871 - Golden Key Co. active until at least Sept 1875.<sup>36</sup>
- 1871:** Heaviest flood on record - dams and races on Donnelly's Creek swept away, claims levelled.<sup>37</sup>
- 1871:** 'A great many prospecting parties are out near the heads of Fulton's, Donnelly's, and Aberfeldy's Creeks, in search of quartz reefs.'<sup>38</sup>
- 1871:** Rush to reefs near Mt Lookout, Aberfeldy - included Lily of the Valley, Fleming's (or Aberfeldy), Jessop's, Comet, Stockholm Tar, Lone Star, and Hanoverian.<sup>39</sup>
- 1871:** The main feature in alluvial is the gradual migration of the Jordan miners southward on their river, and on to the Thomson, which is opening up as a large and permanent alluvial field.<sup>40</sup>

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<sup>35</sup> Bailey & Bailey, p. 10; Kenny; Baragwanath, p.11

<sup>36</sup> Mining Surveyors' Reports (Donnelly's Creek Division), March 1870 & Sept 1871

<sup>37</sup> Mining Surveyors' Reports (Donnelly's Creek Division), June 1871

<sup>38</sup> Mining Surveyors' Reports (Donnelly's Creek Division), Dec 1871

<sup>39</sup> Baragwanath, p.10

<sup>40</sup> Mining Surveyors' Reports (Jericho Division), June 1871

- 1871:** Aberfeldy River and Thomson Rivers have been essentially of late poor man's diggings. Mining popn on Thomson has quadrupled within last two years - Chinese in large majority. Scarcely any alluvial miners on Aberfeldy River. Popn of Mt Lookout settlement about 40 - miners, prospectors, speculators, and mining managers or brokers. Two '42nd' (residence) leases were taken up at Mt Lookout in 1868, now occupied by one of the original prospectors of the BB and known as The Farm, on which fine vegetables, potatoes and corn are grown. Lily of the Valley, Jessop's and Fleming's reefs are one and the same lode - first worked by Jessop in 1864 - He sank a number of shafts and drove two tunnels, obtaining such encouraging results that he underwent great privations rather than relinquish his hold on the ground, in consequence of which he died about twelve months ago. "Commenting on prospectors of Stockholm Tar claim - 'it may be remarked that most of our new discoveries for years past have been made by Germans and Swedes'. No batteries yet on Aberfeldy reefs - crushings at nearest battery, Eldorado Reef". Fleming Reef party cutting a race with a view to erecting a battery near the mouth of their tunnel.<sup>41</sup>
- 1871-88:** Lily of the Valley Reef discovered near Aberfeldy, 1871 - 10-head battery erected 1874 - mine name changed to New Lily in 1882 - co. reorganised as Mt Lookout Co. in 1885 - mine closed 1888 - total yield of 2,936 oz from 11,052 tons.<sup>42</sup>
- 1871-85:** Lone Star Reef discovered, west of Lily Valley, in 1871 - renamed Star and Thomson by 1876 - 10-head water-powered battery erected 1877 - low yields - mine idle from 1885.<sup>43</sup>
- 1871:** Eldorado Reef battery crushing for the Aberfeldy Reefs.<sup>44</sup>
- 1871-89:** Bismarck Co., Donnelly's Creek, worked rich shallow ground, 1871-5 - continued work through 1870s with mixed success - on rich ground again in 1882 - yielded 2,351 oz from 1,215 tons during 1882 and similar in 1883 - prospecting with mixed results thereafter - closed down in 1889 (when 'the principal mine on Donnelly's Creek'<sup>45</sup>), after treating old tailings.<sup>46</sup>
- 1872:** Gippsland Consols Co. moved battery and plant a few hundred yards down the gully, closer to their lower workings. Bismarck Co. formed tramway to connect their mine with the Golden Chest Co. battery. No puddling machines in division.<sup>47</sup>
- 1872:** Steam battery erected at Mt Lookout (by Messrs Williamson) for public crushing. Aberfeldy Co. erected battery. Cost of packing to batteries elsewhere had hitherto been prohibitive to Aberfeldy miners.<sup>48</sup>
- 1872:** European mining population of Jordan district not increasing, 'but are gradually making way for the Chinese'. Old creek claims on Jordan and BB falling into the hands of Chinese.<sup>49</sup>

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<sup>41</sup> 'Special Report on the Newly-discovered Reefs Termed the Aberfeldy Reefs', Appendix A to MSR, June 1871, pp.45-6

<sup>42</sup> Tomlin, Bosa & Chamberlain, p.126

<sup>43</sup> Tomlin, Bosa & Chamberlain, p.131

<sup>44</sup> Mining Surveyors' Reports (Jericho Division), Dec 1871

<sup>45</sup> Mining Surveyors' Reports (Donnelly's Creek subdivision), December 1889

<sup>46</sup> Baragwanath, p.10

<sup>47</sup> Mining Surveyors' Reports (Donnelly's Creek Division), June 1872

<sup>48</sup> Mining Surveyors' Reports (Stringer's Creek subdivision), June & September 1872

<sup>49</sup> Mining Surveyors' Reports (Jericho Division), June & Sept 1872

- 1872:** On Thomson River, near junction with the Jordan, there are still a few creek claims yielding fair returns - loose ground and light scaly gold.<sup>50</sup>
- 1872:** Thomson Co. (on Thomson River) erected 10-head battery. Aberfeldy Co. (on Aberfeldy River) erected 'powerful' water-powered battery.<sup>51</sup>
- 1872:** Several quartz claims in Mt Look Out vicinity 'have come under the vigorous test of the iron stampers' - disappointing results.
- 1873:** Jericho alluvial mining - 'In the older creeks and spurs a considerable number of miners are still employed, one-half at least of the number being Chinese. The ground that was considered worked out by the lucky ones ten years ago will continue to pay a low rate of wages for re-working, by the more industrious though less fortunate miners, for many years to come.'<sup>52</sup>
- 1873-4:** My Dream Co. erected 12-head battery on Satin Bird Reef, in branch gully east of Aberfeldy River, Toombon.<sup>53</sup> (Yields fell off and workings abandoned - little to be seen of 'old workings' in 1885.<sup>54</sup>)
- 1873-4:** Jericho quartz mining almost at a standstill.<sup>55</sup>
- 1874:** Aberfeldy quartz mining 'exceedingly dull' - 'the development of the district, which is undoubtedly highly auriferous, is retarded, like all new fields, for want of funds.'<sup>56</sup>
- 1874:** Jericho alluvial mining - 'all the creeks and most of the spurs have been thoroughly worked out, consequently the miners are leaving the place almost daily, making towards the Gippsland railways, are off for some of the Queensland and other new diggings, or are looking out for harvest work.'<sup>57</sup>
- 1874-9:** 10-head battery erected by Wilson and Barthold near Mt Lookout on former Lily of the Valley ground - crushed large quantities of stone - mine worked by tunnels. Closed down 1877 - mine reopened by Lily of the Valley Co. - worked by tunnel 300 ft below crown of hill.<sup>58</sup>
- 1875:** Stratford & Avon QMC (on Jorgensen's Reef, on the range north of Donnelly's Creek) erecting battery - 10-head, 28-ft waterwheel, 2,000-yard race from Donnelly's Creek, incline tramway 428 yards long - mine stopped work in 1876.<sup>59</sup>
- mid 1870s-83:** Principal Aberfeldy mines: Aberfeldy/Toombon, Star & Thomson, New Lily.<sup>60</sup>

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50 Mining Surveyors' Reports (Jericho Division), Sept 1872  
 51 Mining Surveyors' Reports (Jericho Division), Sept 1872  
 52 Mining Surveyors' Reports (Jericho Division), June 1873  
 53 Baragwanath, pp.10, 38  
 54 Murray (1885), p.68  
 55 Mining Surveyors' Reports (Jericho Division)  
 56 Mining Surveyors' Reports (Stringer's Creek Division), March 1874  
 57 Mining Surveyors' Reports (Jericho Division), Dec 1874  
 58 Baragwanath, pp.10-11, p.36  
 59 Mining Surveyors' Reports (Donnelly's Creek Division), December 1875; Murray (1885), p.69  
 60 Mining Surveyors' Reports (Aberfeldy Subdivision), 1876-83

- 1876:** Track cut over NW flank of Mt Baw Baw, connecting Aberfeldy township with Reefton on the Yarra. Large part of Upper Thompson River made available for prospecting, but nothing of value found.<sup>61</sup>
- 1876:** Harbinger GMC mine and plant (including steam-powered battery) purchased by ex-tributer, McDougall - increased in value - mine again let on tribute.<sup>62</sup>
- 1878:** Bismarck United QMC - 15-head battery. Gippsland Consols QMC - 10-head steam battery. Aberfeldy QMC - 10-head water-powered battery. Florence QMC – battery.<sup>63</sup>
- 1878:** A few alluvial miners still working on Donnelly's Creek and Aberfeldy, and on some of the terrace drifts along the Thompson River - 'but rich alluvial yields for a large population are now things of the past as regards the area under notice'.<sup>64</sup>
- 1878:** Hit-or-Miss Co., Donnelly's Creek, obtained a patent rock-drill for boring - first of the sort in Gippsland.<sup>65</sup>
- 1878:** Tributers at Harbinger GMC mine burning and crushing quartz at their battery.<sup>66</sup>
- 1879:** Alluvial miners sluicing on Thompson and Aberfeldy - making £4 to £10 per week per man.<sup>67</sup>
- 1880:** Quartz mining at Donnelly's Creek 'was never so dull'.<sup>68</sup>
- 1880:** Revival of alluvial mining at Blue Jacket Creek, which has been abandoned for years - 20 miners on site and prospecting party formed.<sup>69</sup>
- 1880-2:** Reef discovered at Sophys Gully, Fulton's Creek - prospecting carried on in 1881 – tunnel driven and battery erected by Fulton's Creek Co., 1882.<sup>70</sup>
- 1881:** Toombon GMC formed to work Aberfeldy mine - erected new machinery and drove tunnel at lowest possible level.<sup>71</sup>
- 1881:** Reef discovered in Harbinger mine, Dry Creek, after more than two years' tunnelling and prospecting.<sup>72</sup>
- 1881:** Star and Thomson Co., near Aberfeldy, erected battery, connected to tunnel by tramway - claim worked since c.1876.<sup>73</sup>
- December 1882:** Toombon GMC winding and pumping plant completed - main shaft down 120 feet – sinking to 200 ft.<sup>74</sup>

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61 Baragwanath, p.10

62 Mining Surveyors' Reports (Jericho Division), June 1876

63 Mining Surveyors' Reports (Donnelly's Creek Division), Sept 1875

64 Murray (1878), p.44

65 Mining Surveyors' Reports (Donnelly's Creek Division), June 1878

66 Mining Surveyors' Reports (Jericho Division), June & Sept 1878

67 Baragwanath, p.11

68 Mining Surveyors' Reports (Donnelly's Creek Division), March 1880

69 Mining Surveyors' Reports (Jericho Division), March 1880

70 Mining Surveyors' Reports (Donnelly's Creek Division)

71 Mining Surveyors' Reports (Jericho Division), June 1881

72 Mining Surveyors' Reports (Jericho Division), June 1881

73 Baragwanath, p.11

74 Mining Surveyors' Reports (Donnelly's Creek Division), December 1882

- June 1883:** Toombon GMC struck a reef in their shaft - many new claims pegged out.<sup>75</sup>
- 1883:** New Hit or Miss GMC struck payable shoot of stone - longest tunnel in Gippsland and this is the first gold obtained from it.<sup>76</sup>
- 1884-6:** Harbinger Co., Dry Creek, repaired battery and steam engine, burnt down by bushfire some years ago - 1885, built kilns for quartz burning - 1886, stacking tailings for future treatment, 'as they are known to contain a large quantity of pyrites charged with gold'.<sup>77</sup>
- 1885-9:** Donnelly's Creek mining increasingly dull; Toombon mining increased and thrived.<sup>78</sup>
- 1885-9:** White Star mine, Donnelly's Creek, taken up in 1885, after being idle nearly 20 years - worked until 1889.<sup>79</sup>
- 1885:** 'The alluvial miners [of Jericho], finding employment in the reefs about Toombon and elsewhere, are gradually deserting the creeks - now nearly worked out - for the more certain prospect of daily wages.'<sup>80</sup>
- 1886:** Bismarck Co. moved battery lower down Donnelly's Creek, near mouth of lowest adit.<sup>81</sup>
- 1886:** New Blue Jacket GMC formed - lode never worked below creek level - sinking shaft, built offices, erected pumping and winding machinery.<sup>82</sup>
- 1886:** 'There is nothing new in alluvial mining in this division, nor is there likely to be. Those who are now following this occupation are principally old diggers turning over old ground - men of independent spirit, unaccustomed to work for wages, and too old to direct their energies in any other groove with any reasonable prospect of success. A hut, a garden, and five or six dwt. of gold a week, appear to satisfy the requirements of the majority of them.'<sup>83</sup>
- 1886:** 'Some attention is being paid to the old deserted mines from which good crushings were obtained in the early quartz-reefing days, and, no doubt, the knowledge gained of reefs during the last 20 years will result in many of the lost shoots of gold being picked up and followed.'<sup>84</sup>
- 1886:** Toombon GMC's new battery erected - 20-head, water-powered with auxiliary steam - replaced existing 10-head water-powered battery.<sup>85</sup>
- 1888:** Dry Creek and Blue Jacket mines: - Harbinger mine - on branch of Dry Creek - has been at work many years 'with many vicissitudes of fortune'. Other mines on Dry Creek - O'Keefe's claim, South Harbinger, Guiding Star. Blue Jacket mine - on south side of Blue Jacket Creek - worked many years ago with good results, but thought to be exhausted - recently taken up again and rich gold-bearing quartz veins found - steam winch and light stamp battery. Aberfeldy mines:- Mount Look-out (ex-Lily, since 1886) mine - idle, but good yields in the past. Also Toombon mines.<sup>86</sup>

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75 Mining Surveyors' Reports (Aberfeldy Subdivision), June 1883  
 76 Mining Surveyors' Reports (Donnelly's Creek Division), December 1883  
 77 Mining Surveyors' Reports (Jericho Division), June & Sept 1885, June & Sept 1886  
 78 Mining Surveyors' Reports  
 79 Baragwanath, p.33  
 80 Mining Surveyors' Reports (Jericho Division), Sept 1885  
 81 Mining Surveyors' Reports (Donnelly's Creek Division), June 1886  
 82 Mining Surveyors' Reports (Jericho Division), March & June 1886  
 83 Mining Surveyors' Reports (Donnelly's Creek Division), December 1886  
 84 Mining Surveyors' Reports (Donnelly's Creek Division), September 1888  
 85 Mining Surveyors' Reports (Donnelly's Creek Division), September 1886  
 86 Murray (1888)

- late 1880s:** Much government-sponsored prospecting.<sup>87</sup>
- 1888:** New Blue Jacket GMC erected 12-head steam-powered battery - 30 men employed.<sup>88</sup>
- 1888:** New Toombon Co. erected 10-head battery, 40-ft waterwheel, water-race - mine situated on top of a spur on eastern watershed of Aberfeldy River, about 700 ft above river and battery - stone conveyed to battery by aerial tramway - about 1 mile of wire rope - **first aerial tramway in Gippsland ('probably in the colony')**.<sup>89</sup>
- June 1888:** Harbinger Co., Dry Creek, crushed 400 tons for 711 oz 15 dwt.<sup>90</sup>
- 1889:** New Hit or Miss Co., Donnelly's Creek, 'one of the most persevering companies in the mountains', struck a promising shoot of stone - overhauled their battery 'which has been idle for a very long time' (co. engaged mainly in dead work since c.1884-5) and commenced crushing - longest tunnel in the mountains.<sup>91</sup>
- 1889:** Mining at Donnelly's Creek had virtually ceased. Donnelly's Creek mines much less than Woods Point, Matlock or Walhalla mines.<sup>92</sup>
- September 1889:** Creeks around Jericho now all but exhausted of alluvial gold, having been worked for more than 25 years.<sup>93</sup>
- 1889:** Battery being erected at St Valentine Reef, Thomson River, for Brohan and party – reef discovered in 1887 with assistance of Prospecting Vote - battery will aid other local prospectors.<sup>94</sup>
- early 1890s:** William Bennett's Jet Elevator Co. commenced hydraulic operations on the Jordan River, sluicing the banks from above Jericho to Blue Jacket. About half a mile below Jericho, a new course was cut for the river, turning it at a sharp right angle to enable the working of the old river bed. Bennetts continued sluicing operations on the Jordan until the 1950s.<sup>95</sup>
- 1890s:** Government scheme to establish unemployed in new trades led to a mining settlement in the Thomson River valley, near Cascade Creek - a party of men and their families were helped to build huts and each took up an area for sluicing - a water race 6-8 miles long was constructed - the project was abandoned within months.<sup>96</sup>
- 1893:** The Board of Education was applied to for permission to sluice the Jericho schoolgrounds. After a lengthy wrangle between the Board and the Mines Department, the school was closed in 1896 and the grounds sluiced. Jericho pupils had to attend school at Red Jacket until the Jericho school reopened in 1901.<sup>97</sup>
- 1894:** Landy's Dream Reef discovered - mine situated about 6 miles N of Walhalla - worked by tunnels - water-powered battery on Aberfeldy River - aerial tramway.<sup>98</sup>

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87 Baragwanath, pp.11-12

88 Mining Surveyors' Reports (Jericho Division), March & September 1888

89 Mining Surveyors' Reports (Donnelly's Creek Division), March 1888

90 Mining Surveyors' Reports (Jericho Division), June 1888

91 Mining Surveyors' Reports (Donnelly's Creek Division), June & September 1889

92 Bailey & Bailey, p.10

93 Mining Surveyors' Reports (Jericho Division), Sept 1889

94 Mining Surveyors' Reports (Jericho Division), June & Sept 1887, Sept & Dec 1889

95 Tomlin, Bosa and Chamberlain, pp.88, 91 & 116

96 Adams, p.98

97 Tomlin, Bosa and Chamberlain, p.82

98 Baragwanath, p.35

- 1894-1902?:** Victor's quartz mine operating on Victor's Spur, on high range between Ross Creek and Dry Creek - originally named the Defiance Reef and worked during the 1860s, it was renamed Victor's Reef - Victor's quartz mine yielded 21,193 oz from 42,634 tons during 1894-1900 - floated as public co. in 1900 - fell prey to Melbourne speculators little development of mine - mine closed and machinery scrapped - mine reworked at a later date (when?)<sup>99</sup>
- c.1897-1917:** Mining revival caused reopening of BB Quartz Mine, after 20 years idle, in c.1897 – 5-head battery, 38-ft overshot waterwheel - mine operated by BB Quartz GMC until 1918 - 1,768 oz from 2,076 tons - then continued in a small way until 1935.<sup>100</sup>
- late 1890s:** Mines active in the Dry Creek area - Harbinger, New Chum, Moonlight, South Harbinger, Guiding Star, and Wildflower (originally worked as Homeward Bound in 1862). New Chum had been abandoned for 20 years - 5 adits driven, good returns – pair of ore-roasting kilns, built of local stone - mine closed in 1915.<sup>101</sup>
- late 1890s:** Blue Jacket mine reopened - closed 1908, due to excessive water - yields 4,969 oz from 7,364 tons. Excelsior mine situated immediately north of Blue Jacket mine – 1890s-1913 - 1,656 tons yielded 1,332 oz. Blue Jacket and Excelsior mines shared a 9-head battery.<sup>102</sup>
- 1899:** [Jordan mines such as] Landy's Dream, the New Centennial, the BB Quartz have not justified the reputation of the district, while more to the east lies the Donnelly's Creek and Toombon mines. The past history of these mines show that they are still worth spending money on, but, unfortunately, the first policy of a new company is to see what was left in the old workings, and by the time it is found that nothing payable is there the money is all spent, and the same history if repeated.<sup>103</sup>
- early 20thC:** Busiest area outside Walhalla was Aberfeldy, where two successful companies operated: Star & Thomson (closed down 1910) and Anderson brothers (paid well in years before WWI)
- 1902:** McIntyre's quartz mine discovered at Ross Creek in 1902 - total yield 1,346 oz from 1,874 tons. Pheasant Tail mine opened in same year - 78 tons yielded 234 oz, then mine abandoned - mine reopened and worked in a small way a few years later.<sup>104</sup>
- 1903:** Excelsior Co., Blue Jacket, crushed 168 tons for 39 oz. Dredge will shortly be erected on Jordan River.<sup>105</sup>
- 1920s-30s:** Extensive sluicing operation conducted by Bennett family at Blue Jacket township/BB Creek-Thomson River junction - plant powered by brace of boilers, still standing in 1970s, but since removed or covered by waters of Thomson Dam.<sup>106</sup>
- 1904-06:** Jordan River Bucket Dredging Co. operated small dredge above Red Jacket - yields not recorded - dredge broken up in 1905.<sup>107</sup>
- 1904:** Hidden Face mine, Donnelly's Creek - some good returns. Star and Thomson mine, Aberfeldy, active. Jordan River dredge worked only part of the year.<sup>108</sup>

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99 Tomlin, Bosa and Chamberlain, pp.104 & 107  
100 Tomlin, Bosa and Chamberlain, p.84  
101 Tomlin, Bosa and Chamberlain, pp.107-10  
102 Tomlin, Bosa and Chamberlain, p.116  
103 *Australian Mining Standard*, 1/6/1899, p.72  
104 Tomlin, Bosa and Chamberlain, p.104  
105 Department of Mines Annual Report, 1903, p.84  
106 Tomlin, Bosa & Chamberlain, p.118  
107 Tomlin, Bosa and Chamberlain, p.113  
108 Department of Mines Annual Report, 1904, p.78

- 1905:** Fulton's Creek Co. erected 10-head battery, ex-Black Prince Co., Bulumwaal. Victor's Quartz mine, Red Jacket, let on tribute. No work done by Jordan River dredge for some time.<sup>109</sup>
- 1906:** A few men working in White Star mine and some tributers in Crinoline Extended, Donnelly's Creek. Fulton's Creek Co. crushed 691 tons for 441 oz - 16 men employed. Lady Vera Co., Fulton's Creek, crushed 329 tons for 580 oz - 14 men employed. Excelsior Co. still prospecting at Blue Jacket. Jordan River dredge resumed works mid-year - only moderate results.<sup>110</sup>
- 1907:** Bismark mine, Donnelly's Creek, worked for some time without success - worked ceased. New find reported at Clear Creek - company formed, a few parties prospecting. Victor's Quartz mine, Red Jacket, erected new oil engine and winding plant at end of lower adit. Hughes and party working old Harbinger lease, Dry Creek.<sup>111</sup>
- 1908:** White Star Co., Mt Useful, still prospecting - installing a water scheme and driving No. 2 creek tunnel. Lady Vera Co. suspended operations during year.<sup>112</sup>
- 1910:** Fulton's Creek Co. erected small steam winding plant in tunnel workings - poor stone. North Toombon Syndicate - payable stone not found. Aberfeldy Co. shut down. Victor's Quartz Co., Red Jacket, prospecting with disappointing results. Bennett and son working old alluvial ground at Jericho by hydraulic sluicing.<sup>113</sup>
- 1911:** Prospecting of old workings carried on in all areas, without success.<sup>114</sup>
- 1912:** George and party, Ross Creek, payable stone found in lower tunnel - erecting steam machinery to augment water-powered plant.<sup>115</sup>
- 1913:** Oriental mine (Spargo and Dedman), Fulton's Creek - stone diminishing with depth. Landy's Dream Syndicate, Aberfeldy, prospecting.<sup>116</sup>

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<sup>109</sup> Department of Mines Annual Report, 1905, pp.111-12; Fairweather, p.38

<sup>110</sup> Department of Mines Annual Report, 1906, pp.121-2

<sup>111</sup> Department of Mines Annual Report, 1907, p.142

<sup>112</sup> Department of Mines Annual Report, 1908, pp.126-7

<sup>113</sup> Department of Mines Annual Report, 1910, p.129

<sup>114</sup> Department of Mines Annual Report, 1911, p.139

<sup>115</sup> Department of Mines Annual Report, 1912, p.114

<sup>116</sup> Department of Mines Annual Report, 1913, p.111

- 1917:** Oriental mine, Fulton's Creek, continues to open out well in lower tunnel workings. Lone Star and Lily mines, Aberfeldy, are being prospected. On new Toombon line of reef, Clark brothers working small shoots of stone by stoping - crushing by water-power.<sup>117</sup>
- 1918:** Operations resumed in Lady Vera mine, Fulton's Creek - lengthy tramway being constructed from mine to Fulton's Creek battery. Lily mine, Aberfeldy, closed down. Three sluicing parties at work on the Jordan. Clark brothers 'are experiencing prosperous times' on northerly extension of Toombon lode system.<sup>118</sup>
- 1923:** Golden Lily Co., Aberfeldy, opened - 10-head battery erected, but crushings poor.<sup>119</sup>
- 1925:** Remains of old Independent water-powered battery, supplied by race from Growler's Gully, marked site of Independent mine operations, Donnelly's Creek.<sup>120</sup>
- 1932:** Old Oriental claim, Fulton's Creek, worked by New York Co. from 1932, with some success.<sup>121</sup>
- 1932-6:** Aberfeldy Amalgamated Mining Co. - hydraulic sluicing co. operating at Aberfeldy.<sup>122</sup>
- 1930s:** Harbinger mine reworked.<sup>123</sup>
- 1934-40s:** Toombon Co. formed to re-open old Toombon mine. Spent £30,000 clearing out main shaft and winzes until 1940, then poor prospects caused closure of mine.<sup>124</sup>
- 1947- :** Pride of the Mountains mine, Aberfeldy - small but rich reef being worked - first crushing gave 6 oz/ton; later crushing gave 15 oz/ton - small battery installed, 1948<sup>125</sup>
- 1948:** Christie brothers built new settling dams for their hydraulic sluicing operations on the Jordan River, near Aberfeldy - sluicing continued until 1950+.<sup>126</sup>
- 1970s:** New Dawn Co. reopened former Lily mine in Lily Valley, near Aberfeldy.<sup>127</sup>
- 1974:** Harbinger mine, Dry Creek, still occasionally worked.<sup>128</sup>

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117 Department of Mines Annual Report, 1917, p.16

118 Department of Mines Annual Report, 1918, p.16

119 Adams, p.120

120 Baragwanath, p.35

121 Adams, p.120

122 Adams, p.120

123 Adams, p.120

124 Kenny

125 *Mining and Geological Journal*, Sept 1947, Sept 1948

126 *Mining and Geological Journal*, Sept 1948-March 1950

127 Tomlin, Bosa & Chamberlain, p.133

128 Bailey & Bailey, p.10

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