



John Smeed (inset) Storekeeper and former Publican at the Star Hotel, a major donor to the construction (Source: Smeed Family)

Charles Vaughan from Ireland was the first minister and attracted Irish emigrants such as the Storey, Reilly, McKinney and Crawford families, the later three worked the Little Oakey, Big Oakey and Caledonia gold mines, respectively. The Orange Lodge regularly held their meetings here in the early 1900s. John Reilly with his son Ted operated the last gold mine at Wattle Flat, right up to the elder Reilly's death in 1939. At his funeral, Rev Laing described him as 'a noble and truly loved citizen' and a 'true supporter of this church all his life'. His brothers, Tom and William, went to the Yukon Goldrush and were not heard from again.



Golden Hope Battery, Spring Creek c1892 (inset John Reilly Jr), including Robert Goodfellow (leaning on pole), John Reilly Jr with his father sitting (middle) and John Moyle (standing) are all buried in the cemetery (Source: Ted Reilly)