



BARBER George

Parents: Anthony Barber and Anna Archbold

Birth: 26 December 1814 Bowden, Wooler, Northumberland, England

Death: 26 February 1897 Tower Hill

Marriage: Charlotte Augusta Meara in 1849, who died at 90 years, the daughter of George Meara and Louisa Hodges

Immigration: Sailed from London on board the *Derwent* arriving in Melbourne in June 1841

Children:

1. Anthony b 1851 d 1851
2. George b 1853 d 1869
3. Louisa Ann b 1855 d 1940
4. Anthony b 1857 d 1929
5. Ann Eliza b 1859 d 1944

Place of Residence: *Mount Taurus*, Winslow, Victoria. *Wingfield* Ardlie Street

Death & Burial: *Weekly Times*, Saturday 6 March 1897

BARBER.- On the 26th February, at his late residence, *Mount Taurus*, George Barber, solicitor, aged 82 years.

Buried in Church of England Section of Warrnambool Cemetery, Row 9, Grave 55, on 28 February – he shares the grave with his young son, George, who died in 1869. Wife Charlotte, who died in 1908 is in the neighbouring Grave 54.

Obituary:

The Warrnambool Standard, 27 February 1897.

One of the pioneers of the district passed away yesterday in the person of Mr. George Barber, solicitor, who had attained to the ripe age of 82 years. The deceased gentleman arrived in Melbourne in 1841, and carried on business there for some years. He subsequently removed to Port Fairy, and about 43 years ago commenced the practice of his profession in Warrnambool, and he had a long and successful career here. Mr W Ardlie, the well-known solicitor, entered Mr Barber's office as a boy, in time became a partner, and ultimately the whole business passed into his hands. About 18 years since the late Mr Barber retired from active work, and took up his residence at *Mount Taurus*, Winslow, spending his closing years amid the quiet of country life. The deceased was we believe, the oldest solicitor on the register in Victoria, and was also the oldest member of the local Lodge of Freemasons. During his long career he rendered great assistance to movements having for their object, the public good, and after retiring from practice as a solicitor, he was appointed a Justice of the Peace. During the past few months the health of the late Mr Barber was clearly failing, and the end came about two o'clock yesterday. He leaves a widow, a son and two daughters to mourn their loss. The funeral will take place on Sunday afternoon, leaving *Mount Taurus* for the Warrnambool Cemetery at two o'clock.

Life:

George BARBER was a young man when he arrived in Australia. He left London shortly after becoming a qualified practitioner, and was soon in the employ of a Mr McCrae, a solicitor of Collins Street. He attained a position of prominence in Melbourne and was offered a partnership. The firm became known as McCrae & Barber.

George married Charlotte Meara in 1849 and they decided to settle at Belfast (Port Fairy), where they resided until transferring to Warrnambool in April 1855. Prior to settling in Warrnambool, he made regular visits once a week to Warrnambool on business.

He soon established himself as a solicitor, his courteous manner and fair dealings won the respect of all and earned him the name of 'Honest George'.

George was involved in community activities. He was on the committee to proclaim Warrnambool a municipality in 1855. In May 1856 he was elected to the committee of WBL&BS., and also elected President of the Mechanics Institute in the same year. George was a trustee of the newly formed Villiers Building & Investment Society in 1865, and on the Benevolent Society managing committee in 1857.

He was present at a public meeting that protested against the amalgamation of PO & Telegraph Office.

In 1863 he was elected to the committee of the Horticultural Society and in 1864 to the committee of the Warrnambool Hospital.

He joined a committee to establish the Bathing Company in 1864 and joined the Acclimatisation Society in 1865.

In 1867 he formed a law partnership with William Ardlie. William started his career as a boy with George.

George was successful in government selection of 200 acres at Woolsthorpe in 1867. He also joined efforts to aid the NSW flood victims of 1867.

In 1868 he was elected to the newly formed Horticultural & Poultry Society. He was also a shareholder of the new formed Warrnambool Steam Packet Company.

He was a provisional committee member of the new Warrnambool Gas Company in 1869.

In 1870 he participated in the ceremony of laying the foundation stone of Masonic Hall in Kepler Street.

The Old Colonists Association of the Western District was formed in July 1872, George was on the Committee.