

Nine year old finds a gold reef

Porters Halfway House 1862 – 1869

Frederick and Eliza Porter's nine year old son James was fascinated by gold. The child spent most of his spare time fossicking about alluvial washes picking up specks.

In 1864 Frederick had two men prospecting around his house. To his astonishment James brought home some quartz specimens from a reef he had discovered within a hundred yards of the house.

The find was christened 'Boy's Reef'. The claim was subsequently worked for a short time before becoming unprofitable.

Porter had purchased the Halfway House in 1863. He was a well known explorer who cut a track from Sale to the Jordan goldfields along the upper reaches of the Macalister River.

After a period of suffering ill-health, Frederick C. Porter died in early 1869, age 36. Mrs Eliza Porter, left with four children to support, moved to Melbourne following her loss.

Emily Hannah Porter (Died 8th April, 1866 Aged 8 Months) daughter of Frederick and Eliza Porter and William Morrisey (Died 6th September, 1863 Aged 38yrs) are both buried somewhere close by here.

Source: Paoletti, R., 2007, 'Gold for the Taking: A Pictorial History of the Heyday of the Walhalla- Wood's Point gold belt: 1860's-1960's'.



The Halfway House was an early well-built accommodation place established by William Cook and Timothy O'Sullivan in 1862.

They claimed to offer the best accommodation and stabling for man and beast in the ranges.

Photos (L to R):
Frederick Charles Porter (1832-1869),
Eliza Porter (1833-1909) from
Paoletti J. & R., 2013, 'McEvoy's Track - The Gateway to
the Donnelly's Creek and Jordan Goldfields'