

BLACKGUARD GULLY

14 January - 1861

“At Blackguard Gully, which is about a mile from Lambing Flat, a party of Chinamen have procured 80 ozs. from off the bottom of their shaft.

“This find induced a great rush, and claims are being taken up in all directions in that locality, some of which are turning out 1 oz. to the tub. There is plenty of water there at present.”

Sydney Morning Herald newspaper correspondent

The Chinese miners who made this rich find here at Blackguard Gully at the start of 1861 had little time to actually work their claim.

Just two weeks later on Sunday 27 January a mob of European miners drove them off the field and many took refuge at James Roberts' 'Currawong' property 20 km away near Murrumburrah.

The Chinese returned soon after under police escort only to be once again driven away and forced to seek shelter on Roberts' property.

In early March the NSW Premier Charles Cowper visited the field with a massive police escort. While he implied to the miners that he agreed with their position, he asserted that the law must be upheld. This resulted in the Chinese returning to the field with another large police escort. There was a catch however – they would officially be allowed to work only here at Blackguard Gully, which by that time had been thoroughly worked over and was short of water.

The police reinforcements were withdrawn in May, leaving just 20 officers to manage the large gold field, as an increasing number of miners – including the Chinese – began taking up new ground across the local region.

With tensions on the field at fever pitch and a determined band of ringleaders calling for the miners to rise up and drive the Chinese off the diggings once and for all, the groundwork was laid for serious confrontation over the winter months ahead.

On Sunday 30 June 1861, riot and abuse returned to Blackguard Gully when yet again a mob of miners assembled and drove the Chinese off the Lambing Flat field.

Together with their countrymen from other parts of the diggings, some 1200 Chinese were forced to flee amidst brutal violence that left a trail of fractured skulls, broken bones and cut off pigtails resulting in the virtual scalping of at least one of the “Celestials” fleeing for their lives.

Such hatred however was by no means universal amongst the Europeans. With their tents and possessions burning behind them, the Chinese were able to seek shelter yet again with James Roberts and others.

9 July - 1861

“Were I to narrate only a tithe of the atrocities committed that day it would fill a volume.

“The country must now be fully alive to the necessity of dealing with this most momentous question. The mismanagement of these fields from the very first - the excuses that have been offered upon all occasions by the Government for these illegal proceedings

– the visit of the Honorable Charles Cowper, Premier of New South Wales, and his upholding the illegal proceedings in allowing the claims of the Chinese to be sacrificed without any attempt to reinstate or compensate them

– the presence of the military to uphold law and order, and their withdrawal when the Government must have been in possession of information of the utter inability of any except a large force maintaining order

– the expense that has been saddled upon the country with no other results than complication and confusion, surely must convince the country that our present Government are utterly incompetent to deal with the most vital and important interests of the colony

– these appear to be nothing compared to their own personal aggrandisement. To use an homely phrase, “It’s a long lane without any turning.”

For all interests and classes, for the present and future of this colony, it is to be hoped that we have now reached one, and that such deeds as have been enacted under our present Government – the people’s liberal Ministry and mob law, may never again occur to blot the history of New South Wales.”

Sydney Morning Herald newspaper correspondent

悉尼原著的一天: 1861年6月30日(星期日)

1861年1月14日

在距离兰明地 (Lambing Flat) 大约一英里的巴力克沟 (Blackguard Gully), 一群华人在矿井的底部挖出 80 盎司的金块。 “这一发现掀起了巨大的掘金热潮, 因其蕴藏量丰富, 故矿区四周都进行开采, 而且那里更有大量的用水。”

悉尼晨锋报报导

在 1861 年初, 华人矿工虽然在巴力克沟 (Blackguard Gully) 找到了这个丰富的矿藏, 但他们实际上只有很少的时间可以真正进行获批的开采工作。只是在两个星期后的 1 月 27 日星期天, 一群欧洲矿工暴徒把他们驱离淘金场, 许多华人矿工逃到詹姆斯·罗伯特 (Currawong) 旅馆避难, 那里距离马兰巴拉 (Murrumburrah) 20 公里。

在警方的护送下, 华人很快又回来了。但不久他们再次被驱赶, 被迫再次逃到詹姆斯·罗伯特的旅馆寻求庇护。

在 3 月初, 新南威尔士州总督詹姆斯·考珀在大量的警察护送下实地走访了这片矿区。当时他虽然暗示同意矿工们的立场, 但重申必须守法, 因此, 华人得以在庞大的警力护卫下重回该区域。可是, 华人只被允许在巴力克沟 (Blackguard Gully) 这里工作, 然而当时的开采已尽且缺乏用水。

警察增援部队 5 月被撤回, 只留下 20 名警员管理这庞大的金矿区。此外越来越多的矿工 (包括华人) 开始越过本地矿场去占用新的矿区。

随着矿区的紧张局势达至沸点, 一群图谋已久的元凶鼓动矿工暴动并驱赶矿场上的华人, 以达到一劳永逸的目的, 于是便激起了在冬季发生严重对抗的根基。

在 1861 年 6 月 30 日 (星期日), 暴乱再次在巴力克沟 (Blackguard Gully) 爆发, 一群矿工暴徒又一次集结起来, 要将华人驱离兰明地 (Lambing Flat) 这个矿区。连同其他矿区的同乡, 约 1200 名华人被迫在残酷的暴力之中逃离。在身后留下无数破碎的头颅、断裂的骨骼和被剪断的辫子, 真切地反映出这些曾经的“天朝土民”逃亡的情况。

然而, 这种仇恨并非存在于所有欧洲人之间, 在他们的帐篷和财物被毁后, 华人只能再次向詹姆斯·罗伯特及其他人寻求庇护。

1861 年 7 月 9 日

“就算要我叙述当日惨事事迹的十分之一, 恐怕也要很大的篇幅。” 国家现在必须完全明白处理这个最重大问题的必要性。矿区初期的管理不善、政府包庇非法程序的借口, 以及新南威尔士总督詹姆斯·考珀在考察时对非法程序的坚持, 令华人平白失去获批开采的矿场, 而政府亦没有意图恢复他们的开采权或作任何赔偿。

军队的存在是为了维护法律和秩序, 政府明知若不部署大量警力将无法维护法纪的情况下却撤走了军队。

但是, 这些军队的庞大开支, 也一直是国家所背负的沉重负担。政府不但没有解决问题, 反而酿成更复杂和混乱的结果。因此, 我们可以看到政府在处理对国家利益最重要的问题上, 是完全不称职的。

很明显, 没有什么比他们的个人利益更重要。套用一句老生常谈的话: “这是一条没有回旋余地的直路。”

“为了各方的利益, 为了这个国家的现在和未来, 期望我们所有阶层和肤色的人们能融为一体, 由现今政府 (自由党) 实施的不良契约及暴民法律能够彻底废除, 不要再令新南威尔士的历史蒙上污点。”

悉尼晨锋报报导



Upwards of 1000 men, most of them armed with bludgeons or pick handles and carrying several large flags, one inscribed with the words, “Roll up no Chinese!” formed into procession and headed by a band marched into Lambing Flat.

ABOUT THE GOLD TRAILS

In an extraordinary period from 1851 onwards, people rushed to make their fortunes on a series of goldfields that were discovered in NSW.

The new finds significantly impacted the early agricultural towns and villages. New settlements were established to service thousands of prospectors and miners who came and went. Many came from Australia and overseas to win the gold, many set up businesses to feed and supply the miners, while some chose to steal.

Today, this golden heritage vein underpins the story of nearly every major town and village across central and south west NSW. Every goldfield has its own trail to follow – every goldmining family their own story to tell.

Follow the GOLD TRAILS and discover for yourself, the heritage riches underpinning the towns, villages and landscapes of NSW. Here the stories of those who won the gold and those who stole the gold, are brought to life by communities committed to conserving and sharing their heritage.



Above: Might vs Right - The Lambing Flat Riot 1861. S.T. Gill. Reproduced courtesy Mitchell Library, State Library of NSW from Dr Doyle's Sketch Book Cat No: PKA 1861, No: 114
A key reference source of information for this panel was the essay 'Men of All Nations - except Chinamen': Europeans and Chinese on the Goldfields of NSW. Anne Curthoys 2001



www.goldtrails.com.au



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