

John Atterton (1)

John Atterton in 1875 while on way from Cashmere making North found alluvial tin on the Wild River and some time after establishing a cattle station on the Barron River (Emerald End) discovered tin again about twenty miles from the station. Prospecting with the usual dish, on getting a very good sample he exclaimed "Tin hooray" & the place was called Tinaroo from that day. Let it be understood that J. A. knew too well not to be prospecting alone (as a sitting shot) having once while cattle hunting alone amongst the rough ridges up Plenty Creek, being struck on the head with a tommyhawk thrown from higher ground which inflicted a wound, a scar from which he carried until his end.

When word of Tinaroo was broadcast, prospectors & miners from Hodgkinson gold field soon arrived in the locality. William Jack & John Newell opened a store in bark premises. One day J. A. visiting there as he often did told Newell that he knew a better place, which statement fired J. N.'s curiosity and enthusiasm to enquire "will you show us where it is." A date was arranged & when J. A. arrived, found Newell ready with a few others.

Written by E. C. Atterton, son of John Atterton

John Atterton (2)

The party got going, crossing the Barron at a very rocky & difficult place to get back horses over, about seven miles from where Solga is. I don't know exactly whether my father took them through a track he & two abos cut & got four horses through, coming from Cashmere, or skirted the scrub & had to take to the foot hills of the range but the route up the range was the same as later became the ^{main} road.

On arriving at the find Newell enquired what water were they on, & on Father informing him that Herbert Newell said well we'll call the place Herberton. The party decided to form a syndicate to work the place, my father said leave me out - I am too busy with my cattle.

As is well known ~~that~~ the party prospecting soon found the lode and Herberton mushroomed.

I understand that the first barrel of tin from Linaroo was taken down a rough track which crossed the Little Mulgrave & the Daley Range, & down the coast range, near where Hambleton

Discovered the tin at ^{Wild River} ^(Linaroo) ^{the old name was}
" " John Atherton (3)

is, to a minature wharf where the fishermen & hearlers used to come in to get firewood from their depot on Green Island. This is the place where later Hambleton had a tram line to, until the Gordonvale tramline was built & Hambleton sent direct to Cairns.

Subsequently tin was hatched from the field here a track which joined the Thornboro Cairns road at Groves' Creek (now called Grove Creek). When coaches started running from Pt. Douglas, callers were too numerous at the overnight stop & change at Granite Creek. John Atherton put up a building which was run as an hotel by Lloyd & Eccles, (the first house of Mareeba,) Freeman built an hotel on the Pt Douglas side of the creek but it went up in smoke while quite young.

As far as I know Mc Crowan was the first buried at Granite Creek. He lived at Boar Pocket, was bitten by snake, my brother E. H. made the coffin at Emerald Bend. Mc Crowan's gr sent him a nice nugget of gold.