

## Bendigo Pottery

Further:

Bendigo Pottery website: <http://www.bendigopottery.com.au/index.asp>

MARRIED. At 511, George-street, Sydney, on the 24th February, 1853, by Mr. Joseph Kemish, Baptist Minister, George Duncan Guthrie, of Camperdown, potter, to Agnes, third daughter of the late Mr. Robert Craig, of Edinburgh, shawl manufacturer.

Family Notices. (1853, February 25). *Empire* (Sydney, NSW : 1850 - 1875), p. 2. Retrieved from <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article60135684>

FOR Sydney.-The A 1 fast-sailing brigantine GUM, will commence loading for Sydney when she has discharged her cargo, which will be in a few days. For freight apply to the Captain, on board ; or to G. D. GUTHRIE and CO., 55 Flinders lane- west. 472 dec 20 Advertising. (1854, December 20). *The Argus* (Melbourne, Vic. : 1848 - 1956), p. 7. Retrieved April from <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article4802053>

### BIRTHS:

**GUTHRIE** Adamina B George Duncan CRAIG - Agnes 1854 4075

### Deaths:

Sps Snm / Father Sps Gvn / Mother [Year](#) [Reg. No](#)

**GUTHRIE** Adamina D George Dunca - Agnes Craig 1856

**GUTHRIE** Agnes D Craig Robt 1901

CRAIG Robert 239 Surry Hills, Parish Alexandria, County Cumberland, District Sydney – **Census 1841**

Hugh Dixon (1810-1880), tobacco manufacturer, was born on 5 June 1810 in Edinburgh, the second son of Hugh Dixon, baker, and his wife Mary, née Scott. He was educated at Edinburgh High School, served an apprenticeship with a tobacconist and at 19 began his own business as a manufacturer and retailer of tobacco. **On 11 April 1837 he married Helen, daughter of Robert Craig, a shawl manufacturer of Edinburgh.**

I am a great grand son of GDG. As you have had replies on him you now know that there was a lot written. But all the surprises were collated by Bill Derham (Manager of Bendigo Pottery in the mid 80's) and Paul Scholes (Author of the book "Bendigo Pottery"). If you are still chasing information about George and his father Adam you can contact me. But, I do not know the protocol for putting email addresses on this site so I do not know to give you my I Address. Regards Keith

Title The Bendigo Pottery: some recollections by Stan Paynter for the

period 1910-1949  
Author [Stanley E. Paynter](#)  
Publisher Bendigo Modern Press, 1950  
Length 16 pages  
Subjects [Bendigo Pottery \(Firm\)](#)  
[Pottery](#)

"Bendigo Pottery" - Paul Scholes

"Australian Pottery, the First 100 Years" - Geoff Ford

"Bendigo Pottery with Valuations" - Ken Arnold

"Bendigo Pottery" - Dennis O'Hoy

ON Sale, by the Undersigned -

Ex Jane,

180 tons Brown's best Newcastle coal.

Ex Wm. Barry Brown, 20 tons superior flour 20 do seconds flour.

Ex Ann and Jane,

30 tons fine flour

1000 bushels bran.

[G. D. GUTHRIE, 37 Flinderslane east,](#)

Advertising. (1855, March 19). *The Argus* (Melbourne, Vic. : 1848 - 1956), p. 8. Retrieved from <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article4805620>

NOTICE of Removal.-G. D. [Guthrie](#), removed from 55 Flinders-lane west, to 37 Flinders lane east.\_328 Feb 20

Advertising. (1855, February 14). *The Argus* (Melbourne, Vic. : 1848 - 1956), p. 8. Retrieved from <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article4804360>

The Argus (Melbourne, **Friday, 5 September, 1856**  
MARRIED.

At Prahran, by the Rev. George Divorty, Mr. Hugh M'Coll, printer, Melbourne, to Mary, eldest daughter of Adam Guthrie, Esq., formerly of St. George's Road, Glasgow.

<http://newspapers.nla.gov.au/ndp/del/ar ... guthrie%22>

NEW INSOLVENTS.

George Duncan Guthrie, merchant, Flinders-lane,

Melbourne; debts, £2,324 19s.6d.; assets, £1,651 17s.

7d. : cause of insolvency; losses in business and

pressure of English, Scottish, and Australian Chartered Bank.

**NEW INSOLVENTS. (1856, December 6).** The Argus (Melbourne, Vic. : 1848 - 1956), p. 5. Retrieved from <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article7141267>

The Bendigo Advertiser has the following:" Mr. Holdsworth, in his wholesale store, Williamson-street, has samples of pottery and earthenware manufactured by Mr. **Guthrie of the Epsom** Pottery Works, which appear as durable and as much adapted for the uses intended as it is possible to make such articles. They consist of specimens of vitrified water-pipes, of six and four inches bore respectively, very similar to the well-reputed 'Vauxhall ware;' jars of every size, from a pint to four gallons ; utensils in use for dairy purposes, flower-pots, drainage-tiles, &c. All these articles, it appears, can be sold here at a lower cost than they can be imported from England-another proof that native manufactures may progress and succeed without protection."

FRIDAY, JUNE 16, 1865. (1865, June 16). *The Argus*(Melbourne, Vic. : 1848 - 1956), p. 4. Retrieved from <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article5735059>

I am informed that the electric light is about to be introduced to this district. Mr **GD Guthrie, of the Epsom** Pottery Works, having decided upon using a battery at the works during the winter months in order to supply light to the men in the evenings.

SANDHURST. (1879, January 10). *The Argus* (Melbourne, Vic. : 1848 - 1956), p. 7. Retrieved from <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article5927839>

**GUTHRIE AUCTION;** Classified Advertising. (1926, June 19). *The Argus*(Melbourne, Vic. : 1848 - 1956), p. 3. Retrieved from <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article3789811>

- (1998) GUTHRIE, ADA MERLE
- (1874) GUTHRIE, ADAM
- (1879) GUTHRIE, ALEXANDER
- (1945) GUTHRIE, ARTHUR
- (1893) GUTHRIE, CATHERINE
- (1922) GUTHRIE, CECELIA
- (1910) GUTHRIE, GEORGE DUNCAN
- (1910) GUTHRIE, JOHN
- (1910) GUTHRIE, JOHN
- (1878) GUTHRIE, REGINALD

From; Bendigo Cemeteries Trust

<http://www.bencemtrust.com.au/search.asp?search=true&sSurname=guthrie&sInitial=&sYear=>

**GUTHRIE,** -On the 3rd September, at 152 Wattle, street. Bendigo, Cecilia **Guthrie** (late of Epsom), aged. 76 years.

Family Notices. (1922, September 9). *The Argus* (Melbourne, Vic. : 1848 - 1956), p. 17. Retrieved from <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article1843356>

**GUTHRIE** Cecilia D Unknown UNKNOWN - Unknown 1922 7973

**GUTHRIE**.-On the 30th May, at the Homeopathic Hospital, Isabella, the beloved daughter of George D. and **Cecilia Guthrie**, of Epsom, Bendigo, aged 22 years.

Family Notices. (1902, May 31). *The Argus* (Melbourne, Vic. : 1848 - 1956), p. 9. Retrieved from <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article9077061>

**GUTHRIE** Isabella D **Guthrie Geo Duncan** **WILLIAMS - Cecilia**

GUTHRIE,-The Friends of Mr. GEORGE D. **GUTHRIE** are informed that the funeral of his late daughter, **Isabella**, will leave 182 Collins, street THIS DAY (Saturday the 31<sup>st</sup> of May), at half past 1 o'clock for the Melbourne General Cemetery.

A.A. SLEIGHT, Undertaker, Tel 430.

Family Notices. (1902, May 31). *The Argus* (Melbourne, Vic. : 1848 - 1956), p. 9. Retrieved from <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article9077061>

GROUP III – CERAMICS, ART, TERRA COTTA, Sic

**Guthrie**, G D , Epsom, Sandhurst-Collection [of **pottery** ware, medal

INTERCOLONIAL EXHIBITION, 1875. (1875, October 29). *The Argus* (Melbourne, Vic. : 1848 - 1956), p. 7. Retrieved from <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article7423545>

Joseph Grindal employed as a guard on the Victorian Railways, was charged at the City Court on Friday with stealing nine jugs, valued at 7s 6d , from a goods train between Woodend and Melbourne on the night of Saturday, the 17th last. The evidence for the prosecution was to the effect that on the day in question, Mr G D **Guthrie, potter** at Epsom, near **Sandhurst**, sent a consignment of jugs of an entirely novel design to Mr Middleton via agent in Melbourne, and on their delivery it was found that nine jugs were missing. The prisoner was in charge of the train by which they were consigned. The matter was reported to the police, and on the 6th inst Railway detective Wilson searched the prisoner's private house in West Melbourne in company with Constable Tratt, and found three of the stolen jugs in his kitchen, although Grindal had just previously denied ever having seen them. On their being discovered, however, he stated that he found them on the line near the Sunbury station on the night of the 17th ult. It was urged for the defence that the prisoner had found the jugs on the line, by their having fallen from the train, and although he should not have removed them to his home, negligence should not be construed into an act of felony James Kinsella, the driver of the train, stated that the prisoner reported to him at North Melbourne, that after leaving Sunbury on the 17th ult, he found one of the truck doors open, and picked up some flower pots on the line. The prisoner mistook the jugs for flower pots. The Bench sentenced the prisoner to 14 days imprisonment.

POLICE INTELLIGENCE. (1881, October 17). *The Argus*(Melbourne, Vic. : 1848 - 1956), p. 10. Retrieved from <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article5986582>

POTTERY

G D **Guthrie**, examined by the chairman said that he had been carrying on business as a **potter** at **Sandhurst** for over 20 years. He was quite satisfied with the existing rates of duty on the articles he produced He imported about 300 or £400 worth of goods in the year, but they were all free His distance from the Melbourne markets placed him at a slight disadvantage in competing with importers.

THE TARIFF COMMISSION. (1882, February 24). *The Argus*(Melbourne, Vic. : 1848 - 1956), p. 6. Retrieved from <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article11533126>

## THE BENDIGO POTTERY COMPANY.

BENDIDO, FRIDAY.

Though the Bendigo Pottery Company was unable to declare a dividend at the half-yearly meeting, yet some satisfactory assurances were given by the chairman of directors (Sir John McIntyre). Sir John remarked that the company had now turned the corner, and during the half-year the company had improved over £200 in financial position. Their business had undergone a complete change from what it was two or three years ago. The impetus given to the butter export trade had been a serious blow to the company, as previously they had done a big business in butter dishes and jars ; but this branch of their trade had fallen off since such large quantities of butter were being sent out of the colony. There was, however, a big opening springing up in another direction, and the directors now expected to have a lot more work to do in connection with the Metropolitan Board of Works' sewerage scheme.

The Chairman at a subsequent stage, said he considered it strange that in a colony where protection was said to be the "settled policy," yet colonial manufactures were tabooed. In Parliament-house were spittoons, &c., manufactured in the colony, but which had been sold as imported goods. Some importers who dealt with the company, stipulated that the word "Bendigo" should not be impressed on the crockeryware, so great was the prejudice against colonial manufactures. The report and balance sheet were adopted and Messrs. L. Robertson, G.G.S. Claridge, and G. D. Guthrie re-elected as directors.

## THE BENDIGO POTTERY COMPANY.

BENDIDO, FRIDAY.

Though the Bendigo Pottery Company was unable to declare a dividend at the half-yearly meeting, yet some satisfactory assurances were given by the chairman of directors (Sir John McIntyre). Sir John remarked that the company had now turned the corner, and during the half-year the company had improved over £200 in financial position. Their business had undergone a complete change from what it was two or three years ago. The impetus given to the butter export trade had been a serious blow to the company, as previously they had done a big business in butter dishes and jars ; but this branch of their trade had fallen off since such large quantities of butter were being sent out of the colony. There was, however, a big opening springing up in another direction, and the directors now expected to have a lot more work to do in

connection with the Metropolitan Board of Works' sewerage scheme.

The Chairman at a subsequent stage, said he considered it strange that in a colony where protection was said to be the "settled policy," yet colonial manufactures were tabooed. In Parliament-house were spittoons, &c., manufactured in the colony, but which had been sold as imported goods. Some importers who dealt with the company, stipulated that the word "Bendigo" should not be impressed on the crockeryware, so great was the prejudice against colonial manufactures. The report and balance sheet were adopted and Messrs. L. Robertson, G.G.S. Claridge, and G. D. Guthrie re-elected as directors.

THE BENDIGO POTTERY COMPANY. (1895, February 9). *The Argus* (Melbourne, Vic. : 1848 - 1956), p. 8. Retrieved from <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article9344969>

**George Duncan Guthrie Christened 1/6/1828 Paisley Abbey**

Father: **Adam Guthrie B1792 Sundrum.**

**married Elizabeth Duncan b 1795 Married 24/8/1816 Gorbals Glasgow**

**Children**

**Georgina Guthrie b26/8/1817 Gorbals, Glasgow**

**Helen Duncan Guthrie b 5/11/1819**

**Mary Guthrie b 13/6/1823 Gorbals Glasgow**

**George Duncan Guthrie Christened 1/6/1828 Paisley Abbey born Johnstone, Renfrewshire, Potter**

**Elizabeth Guthrie b 1831 Johnstone**

**Isabella Guthrie b 1834**

**He left Johnstone Scotland after becoming a master potter with Port Dundas Pottery to try his luck at gold mining.**

**1900 FIRE:** VICTORIA. (1900, May 11). *South Australian Register* (Adelaide, SA : 1839 - 1900), p. 6. Retrieved April 11, 2012, from <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article54445649>

£20,000 DAMAGE BY FIRE

**Bendigo Pottery Works**

**BENDIGO**, Wednesday.—Damage estimated at £20,000 was caused by fire at the **Bendigo pottery** at Epsom this morning.

The fire broke out in the engine-room, and the flames spread to the top story, where they raced along the roof to other portions of the building.

Employees, who saved many valuable patterns from the pattern-house, were greatly assisted by 100 trainees of a machine-gun regiment. The **Bendigo** fire brigade eventually gained control by pumping water from an irrigation race.

The engine-house was completely destroyed, and valuable machines lost. The company has been extending its **works**, and new plant just landed was destroyed. The tiling plant also was lost. The buildings and contents were insured.

Many contracts for sewerage work and **other pottery ware will be interrupted.**

£20,000 DAMAGE BY FIRE. (1941, February 13). *The Argus*(Melbourne, Vic. : 1848 - 1956), p. 2. Retrieved from <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article8184498>

George Guthrie, the founder of the Bendigo pottery, began his first pottery business, Camperdown Pottery, in Sydney in 1851. His most successful product was ginger beer bottles. Following a downturn in the market, Guthrie moved to Melbourne and then to **Sandhurst** (later called Bendigo) on the Victorian goldfields, where a superior white clay had been discovered. In 1857 he established a pottery at Sandhurst. The Pottery made a large range of wares but, due to a small local population and poor transport to the cities, it closed in 1861. When the railway line reached the area in 1863, Guthrie opened another pottery at Epsom, a suburb of Sandhurst near the line. Founded in 1857 by **George Duncan Guthrie** (1828–1910), it is Australia's oldest working pottery. **By 1888 11 kilns were in operation and the site employed 130 people.**

the period from 1968 onwards when the production of salt-glazed Epsom ware was revived by **Bill Derham**

[Remains of the Original Kilns at Potters Flat Epsom Circa 2010](#)

By 1873, the Bendigo pottery had 40 employees and by 1891 over 1,000. Initially, the Bendigo Pottery specialised in items like jars, chimney tops and flower pots but majolica was added in 1879 and Bristol wares a little later. Dark brown "Langley Ware" was introduced in 1914 and an Art Deco range, called "Waverly Ware" in the 1930s. Majolica was discontinued at about this time.

After Guthrie died in 1910, the pottery saw many owners and changes, including two fires - one in 1900 and 1941 - that required sections to be rebuilt. The main factory was destroyed by fire in 1941.

However, it was rebuilt to continue to produce the brown colonial stoneware pottery for which it is famous. After the Second World War, Langley Ware and Waverley Ware were discontinued and the Pottery was producing only pipes, tiles, fire bricks and a limited range of Bristol Ware.

In the late 1960s, a range of kitchen pottery, such as jars, bread crocks and casseroles, called "**Epsom Ware**" was developed and proved very popular. Production of this range ceased in 1987 when Alex Gill, the master potter responsible for it, retired.

#### POTTERY-MAKING.

THE BENDIGO WORKS. Prime Minister's Visit.

"Nearly every thing that can be made out of clay we make," said Mr. J. H. Curnow, of the Bendigo Potteries, to which the Prime Minister (Mr. Hughes) and the Premier (Sir Alexander Peacock) paid a visit yesterday. "That is the trouble; as a matter of fact I believe we would do better if we could specialise in two or three lines, instead of covering so much ground."

A somewhat similar idea was expressed by the Prime Minister, who showed a keen interest in this promising industry. He pointed out in conversation that to obtain the best possible results, and to hold their own against outside competition, our industries would have to specialise, to apply science and brains to the work, and to use the most up-to-date methods and machinery. Provided this were done, he did not believe that high wages would be a hindrance to Australian industry, for the cost of labour was a small item as compared with other things, and skilled and intelligent labour would be well worth high wages, which the industries could afford to pay.

Bendigo is the oldest pottery-making centre, it is claimed, in Australia, and the manufacture has been carried on there for 60 years. At the present time the works inspected yesterday employ about 100 people, and a large and increasing business is done not only with Victoria, but with other States, particularly South Australia and New South Wales. Recently the works have launched out in new directions, such as the



making of Langley ware tea- pots, jugs, soda-water bottles, and other articles. The latest addition to the list are pottery jugs, in which a Melbourne firm proposes to pack jam. When you have eaten the jam you have a good jug. Another line, which is sent all over Australia and New Zealand, is big stone jars for holding acids.

It is interesting to notice that these works have been turning out large numbers of crockery articles for the Defence department, both for camp and for hospital use.

POTTERY-MAKING. (1916, October 19). *The Argus* (Melbourne, Vic. : 1848 - 1956), p. 5. Retrieved from <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article1617457>

## **Current Owners: Rod and Sally Thomson display newly produced pottery and earthenware.**



Early 20th century Bendigo Pottery time-keeping token.

### **Time-keeping tokens**

The collection also includes various time-keeping tokens used by Bendigo Pottery employees.

These small numbered tokens were first used in 1914. They were issued to each employee and had to be hung on a numbered board before the commencement whistle at the start of the working day. If they were not in place on time, the pay clerk would make a deduction from the bearer's pay.

### ***Other Bendigo Pottery wares***

#### **Toby jugs**

Another line which attracted attention for Bendigo Pottery was a series of limited edition Toby jugs, which **first appeared on the market in 1973**. The series was sculpted by former *Melbourne Herald* cartoonist John Frith and

included figures such as Sir Robert Menzies, Ned Kelly, Sir Donald Bradman and Henry Lawson.

### **Dog's head jar**

Elaborate dog's head jars, designed to hold tobacco, were priced at one shilling in 1883. Shaggy, doleful-looking dogs were popular motifs of the day. The dog's expression was partly dependent on how the glazes ran together during firing.



An 1880s money box, made and owned by potter William Henry Lewis. Guthrie gave his apprentice potters money boxes to encourage thrift.



Majolica dog's head tobacco jar, about 1880.

## Ewer jug and emulsion jar



Tall ewer jug, about 1880 and Vickery's emulsion jar, about 1879.


These containers came in various sizes and were used by manufacturers to package a range of products. Tall bottles were used to hold gins, medicines and tonics, while wide-necked bottles were favoured for chemicals and turpentine. Tall ewer jugs were identical in design to Dutch 'Bols' bottles, with a handle just large enough for a finger to pass through.

## Epsomware

Bendigo Pottery's revitalisation under Bill Derham was accompanied by the launch of the Epsomware range of household ceramics. The handmade nature and earthy tones of these salt-glazed items went on to influence an entire generation of art potters.

## 91/1011 Bread platter, earthenware, Bendigo Pottery, Bendigo, Victoria, Australia, 1905-1915



 zoom image

### Description

Bread platter, earthenware, Bendigo Pottery, Bendigo, Victoria, Australia, 1905-1915

Bread plate, earthenware, press-moulded, of circular form with a shallow well, broad flaring ledge and raised on a high footrim ; relief decorated with raised ears of wheat extending from two pierced holes on each side of the shaped rim and flowing along the cavetto to form a border to the well which is decorated with a pressed rosette design in Gothic style, the ledge features text "GIVE US THIS DAY OUR DAILY BREAD" in raised Gothic lettering ; the bread plate is majolica glazed golden brown and pale green with the cream earthenware body reserved in parts under clear glaze to accentuate the wheat and text, the underside is brown glazed and there are three spur marks.


**Made:** Bendigo Pottery; Bendigo, Victoria; 1905 - 1915

Read

more: <http://www.powerhousemuseum.com/collection/database/?irn=111230#ixzz1rhBuvSkt>  
Under Creative Commons License: [Attribution Non-Commercial](#)

## A Bendigo Pottery canoe shaped vase., 1935 - 1945



 zoom image

Images:   

### Statement of significance

This vase forms part of a collection that was donated to the museum in the late 1980s by Dr Robert Lyons. This significant collection consists of over 500 Australian artware ceramics, along with some studio pieces, forming the most comprehensive holding of Australian commercial ceramics. The significance of this vase lies not only in its relation to the prized Lyons collection, but through its connection to one of Australia's oldest, and most distinguished, pottery companies, which continues to produce ceramic cookware and tableware. The vase forms part of an extensive collection of ceramics from various Australian artware makers and major commercial potteries of the early to mid 1900s, thus comprehensively documenting a major craft industry. This collection provides the opportunity to study the process of technology transfer in the decorative arts, the adaptation of an imported tradition to local materials and markets, and the development of distinctly Australian imagery, styles and products.

REF:

Hammond, Victoria (ed), 'Australian Ceramics', Sheparton Art Gallery, 1987  
O'Hoy, Dennis R., 'Bendigo Pottery: Selected Wares from 1857 to the Present Day', Bendigo Art Gallery, 1989  
Bilney, Elizabeth (ed), 'Decorative Arts and Design from the Powerhouse Museum', Powerhouse Publishing, 1991

### Production notes

The bowl was made by Bendigo Pottery in Bendigo Victoria between 1935 and 1945.

Read

more: <http://www.powerhousemuseum.com/collection/database/?irn=90627#ixzz1rhCOJ8dq>  
Under Creative Commons License: [Attribution Non-Commercial](#)

**GUTHRIE.** —In loving memory of my dear son, Archibald, who passed away on July 8, 1912, at Williamstown. "His good and loving ways-Will remain with me always, And cheer

my darkest days." -Eternal rest a unto him oh. Lord, And let perfect light shine upon him.-Inserted by his loving mother, **Agnes Guthrie**;  
Family Notices. (1914, July 11). *Williamstown Chronicle* (Vic. : 1856 - 1954), p. 2.  
Retrieved April 11, 2012, from <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article69979033>

**Agnes Guthrie**, a married woman, has been arrested upon a charge of arson at **Sandridge. The house was partially** destroyed and was insured.  
TELEGRAPHIC MESSAGES. (1876, April 28). *South Australian Register* (Adelaide, SA : 1839 - 1900), p. 5. Retrieved April 11, 2012, from <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article43012881>

#### IN MEMORIAL

**GUTHRIE**.-In sad but loving memory of my dear husband, Moses McLaren **Guthrie**, and our children, James Hickey. Archibald Hamilton, Allan McLay and Agnes Helenor; also our grandchildren Little Archie, **Agnes** and Lucy **Guthrie**, brother and sisters of James and George. "May the Lord have mercy on their souls."-Inserted by Mrs **Agnes Guthrie**, and grandchildren James and George **Guthrie**, Nelson street, Williamstown:

Family Notices. (1913, October 18). *Williamstown Chronicle*(Vic. : 1856 - 1954), p. 2.  
Retrieved April 11, 2012, from <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article69674463>

#### BENDIGO POTTERY FINDS ITS POT CT

120 years old

RIGHT: Bill Derham, managing director

of Bendigo Pottery, and his wife Jeanette, who is the tourist manager.

A potter joined the gold rush, but instead of digging gold, he found fine white clay - and that was how Bendigo Pottery began, almost exactly 120 years ago

The stoneware crocks handcrafted

at Bendigo Pottery are valued for more than their rustic beauty. In a world of plastic, disposable objects, they look as comfortably solid as the earth from which they came.

Bendigo Pottery at Epsom, just outside Bendigo (150km north of Melbourne) celebrates its 120th birthday on

October 24.

Reputed to be Australia's oldest operating pottery works, it is also a major tourist attraction.

**The pottery was started by George Duncan Guthrie, a Scot, who uncovered fine white clay while digging for gold along Bendigo Creek.**

The Bendigo factory was begun by a young Scottish potter, George Duncan Guthrie. He arrived in Australia in 1850. He made some ginger beer bottles in Camperdown, Sydney, around 1853. Some of these are to be found today.

By 1858, with two assistants, Guthrie was making everyday wares at Epsom Flat just outside the Victorian town of Bendigo.

One problem with colonial pottery was the lack of efficient glazes. At the Melbourne Exhibition of 1866, Guthrie won a medal for his collection of stonewares, and in particular ginger beer bottles. These were broken open by the judges to assess the quality of the interior glaze.

By 1880, the Bendigo Pottery was one of the busiest of numerous potteries in Victoria. The factory site covered about one hectare.

Porcelain was not produced anywhere in Australia during the 19th century, and the heavily glazed Bendigo earthenwares are almost impossible to distinguish from contemporary British or American potteries if factory marks are not present. Some Bendigo items are marked with trademarks which include the word "Bendigo."

Guthrie died at Bendigo at the age of 83 in 1910. His partner, E. J. Hartley, became the proprietor. The factory continued until 1941 making items in the fashion of each generation. A fire destroyed the pottery in 1941, but it has been rebuilt and produces handsome, handmade pottery today.

The Bendigo factory was begun by a young Scottish potter, George Duncan

Guthrie. He arrived in Australia in 1850. He made some ginger beer bottles in Camperdown, Sydney, around 1853. Some of these are to be found today.

By 1858, with two assistants, Guthrie was making everyday wares at Epsom Flat just outside the Victorian town of Bendigo.

One problem with colonial pottery was the lack of efficient glazes. At the Melbourne Exhibition of 1866, Guthrie won a medal for his collection of stonewares, and in particular ginger beer bottles. These were broken open by the judges to assess the quality of the interior glaze.

By 1880, the Bendigo Pottery was one of the busiest of numerous potteries in Victoria. The factory site covered about one hectare.

Porcelain was not produced anywhere in Australia during the 19th century, and the heavily glazed Bendigo earthenwares are almost impossible to distinguish from contemporary British or American potteries if factory marks are not present. Some Bendigo items are marked with trademarks which include the word "Bendigo."

Guthrie died at Bendigo at the age of 83 in 1910. His partner, E. J. Hartley, became the proprietor. The factory continued until 1941 making items in the fashion of each generation. A fire destroyed the pottery in 1941, but it has been rebuilt and produces handsome, handmade pottery today.

COLLECTORS' CORNER. (1980, May 28). *The Australian Women's Weekly* (1933 - 1982), p. 105. Retrieved from <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article56325369>

## Character Jug

### Bendigo Pottery, Bendigo, Aus. 1973

The Bradman character jug stands 14cm tall and 536 weighs grams.

“Former Melbourne Herald cartoonist, John Frith, was commissioned by Bendigo Pottery to sculpt a series of toby jugs with likenesses of various Australian characters including Sir Robert Menzies, Ned Kelly, Sir Donald Bradman, Albert Namatjira, Henry Lawson and Sir Charles Kingsford-Smith. He executed these and, with Stan Paynter’s assistance, moulds were taken and production commenced. The slip casting method was used and they appeared as salt glazed stoneware. This was the first Limited Edition range produced by the Pottery.

Only three thousand of each jug was produced and they were exhibited first at the Myer Emporium, Melbourne on 7 November 1974.

The Limited Edition Toby Jugs were not selling nearly as well as had been expected and the future of the line was in doubt. Inexperience in selling Limited Edition products was the main problem. Gift shops were totally unsuited to the selling of this product. All Toby Jugs recalled from retail outlets in January 1975.

Promotion was then to Limited Edition collectors initially and then the bulk sales were handled by mail order.”<sup>18</sup>

Bendigo Pottery is one of the oldest surviving potteries in Australia, having been established in 1858 by George Duncan Guthrie.

Charles Leski Auction on 13th December, 2001. Lot 365 with photo. DON BRADMAN, Toby Jug, brown glaze, with caricature head of Sir Don Bradman, made by Bendigo Pottery, limited edition No.3/3000 Estimate \$500-\$600 Sold \$460

Public Viewing:

**Guthrie - Gordon**. -On the 10th inst. at Geelong, at the residence of W. S. Anderson, Esq., brother-in-law of the bride, by the Rev. Thomas M'Kenzie Fraser, M.A., **George**, third son of the late David **Guthrie**, Esq., Dunse, Berwickshire, Scotland, to **Mary**, second daughter of the late Samuel **Gordon**, [Esq., Liverpool];

Family Notices. (1865, March 20). *The Argus* (Melbourne, Vic. : 1848 - 1956), p. 4.  
 Retrieved from <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article5742961>

Buy Image	Buy Cert	Surname	Given Name(s)	Event	Sps Snm / Father	Sps Gvn / Mother	Year	Reg. No
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<u>GUTHRIE</u>	Ann Jessie	B	George	CHURCHILL - Mary	1885	8977
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<u>GUTHRIE</u>	Marguerite Trythall	B	George	GORDON - Mary	1884	22075
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<u>GUTHRIE</u>	Ethel Jeanie	B	George	GORDON - Mary	1882	13695
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<u>GUTHRIE</u>	Percy David Gray	B	George	GORDON - Mary	1874	6845
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<u>GUTHRIE</u>	Alicia Agnes Fra	B	George	GORDON - Mary	1872	13660
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<u>GUTHRIE</u>	George Fredk Gordon	B	George	GORDON - Mary	1866	8352
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<u>GUTHRIE</u>	Gordon Hector	B	George	GORDON - Mary	1870	6953
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<u>GUTHRIE</u>	Harry Francis	B	George	GORDON - Mary	1887	3392
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<u>GUTHRIE</u>	Mary Eveline	B	George	GORDON - Mary	1876	364
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<u>GUTHRIE</u>	Mary	B	George Young	CHURCHILL - Mary	1881	5016
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<u>GUTHRIE</u>	George	B	George	JOHNSTON - Elizabeth	1871	25714
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<u>GUTHRIE</u>	Herbert Gray	B	George	GORDON - Mary	1868	2749
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<u>GUTHRIE</u>	Leslie Donaldson	B	George	GORDON - Mary	1877	20003
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<u>GUTHRIE</u>	Adamina	B	George Duncan	CRAIG - Agnes	1854	4075
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<u>GUTHRIE</u>	Elizabeth	B	George	RUSSELL - Sarah An	1862	17450