



Thomas Logan was a pioneer of quartz mining in Otago and won enormous wealth.

Logan was born in 1836 at St. Bees, Cumberland, England, and when he was of age he joined the gold rush in Victoria. He married Cissie McGregor in Melbourne and they had three sons.

In the early 1860s he came to Otago and worked as an alluvial miner. In 1863, after finding 'wonderful specimens of gold-studded quartz', he took up a claim at Bendigo and tried to persuade investors to buy the equipment needed to work the rock.

In 1865, after a good report, some Dunedin businessmen took up a claim, but when Logan felt that they were treating him unfairly, he led them to poor ground and they withdrew, giving Bendigo the reputation of being a 'duffer'.

In 1868 he showed samples of his quartz to Cromwell storekeeper George William Goodger who recognised its potential and put up the money for a battery. Logan, Goodger and others then formed the Cromwell Quartz Mining Co. After carting tons of rock down the steep hill to the battery, they won 238 ounces of gold from the first crushing. A new gold rush had begun, and Bendigo and Logantown were soon mushroom settlements, while Cromwell developed a new prosperity.

For many years Logan was the leading figure in the company he had established and was also involved in other companies which sprang up.

In 1875 he sold his shares for 15,000 pounds and 'embarked on a career of opulence'. He owned racehorses, joined in some of David Proudfoot's schemes, and continued investing in mining, although often not successfully.

After living in New South Wales for many years, where he won lucrative contracts for laying railway lines, and putting some of the profits into donations to a hospital, he returned to Dunedin where he died on 12 August 1897, and was buried in Dunedin's Southern Cemetery. In spite of his undoubted wealth, Logan has no memorial or marker on his gravesite. All that one can see is a large bare plot.

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