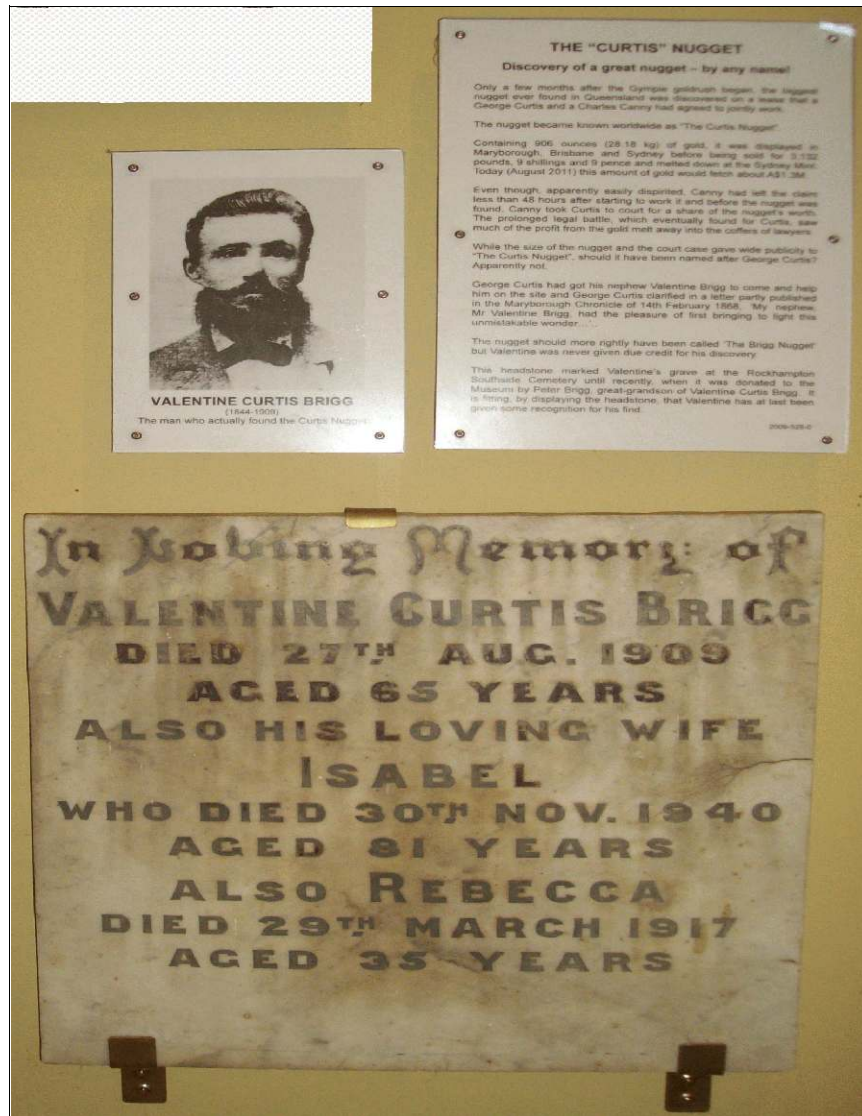


VALENTINE CURTIS BRIGG'S HEADSTONE



Just a few months after Gympie's goldrush started, a young man named Valentine Curtis Brigg discovered a lump of gold on a claim in Sailors Gully on the 6th February, 1868. With his uncle and partner, George Curtis, they unearthed the monster nugget weighing 975oz (31 Kg), which yielded 906 oz of pure gold.

It became known as the Curtis or Perseverance Nugget, the largest ever found in Queensland.

This headstone marked Valentine's grave in the South Rockhampton Cemetery. It was donated to the museum by his great-grandson Peter Brigg, and it is now displayed in the tank in recognition of Valentine's find.

Museum staff are still looking for a picture of the nugget.