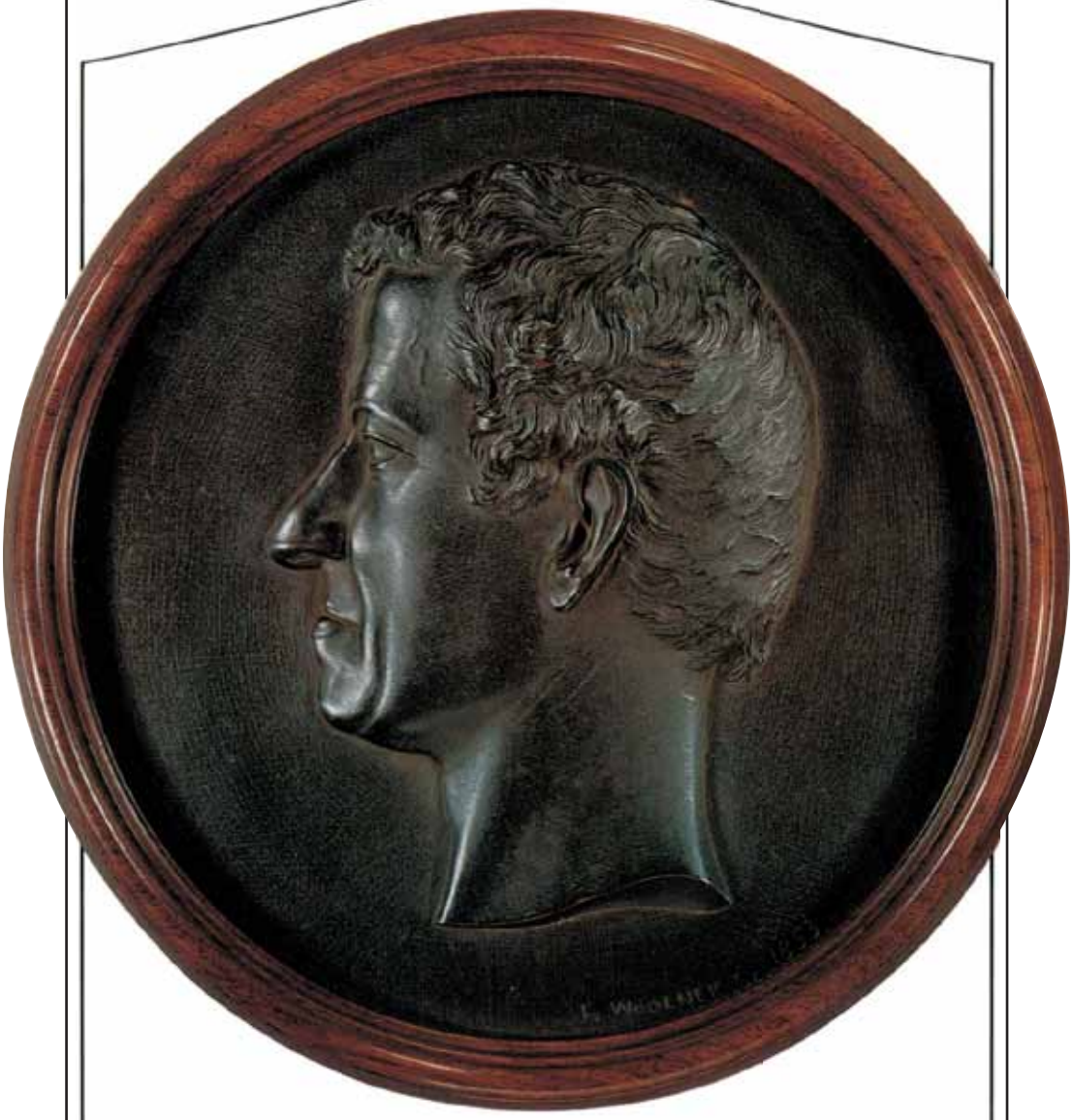
La Trobeana



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FRONT COVER
Thomas Woolner, 1825-1892, sculptor
Charles Joseph La Trobe
1853, diam, 24.0cm. Bronze portrait medallion showing the left profile of Charles Joseph La Trobe. Signature and date incised in bronze 1.1.: T. Woolner. Sc. 1853:/M
La Trobe, Charles Joseph, 1801-1875. Accessioned 1894
La Trobe Picture Collection, State Library of Victoria.

www.latrobesociety.org.au

Contents

Introduction

From the President

In November 2011, members travelled to the Western District to learn about the areas that Charles La Trobe rode through and visited. What a wonderful experience we all had due to the extraordinary efforts and hospitality of the 'Hamilton Branch' of the La Trobe Society as I now like to think of them. They had all organised an action packed weekend of non-stop discovery of some exceptionally interesting historic homes, gardens, shearing sheds and vistas. They even organised good weather. At each historic site we were privileged to have owners and, in many cases, the descendants of the original pioneer families speak to us. These personal accounts were further enhanced with fascinating information on La Trobe by local historians. I am sure you will enjoy reading them in this edition. Again, I would like to express my appreciation to all those involved in organizing the trip.

In March this year, we celebrated Charles La Trobe's 211th birthday at the Cottage with cake and champagne. We were privileged to have the La Trobe University Chancellor Adrienne Clarke co-host the event with us, and to have Professor Richard Broome address us on 'La Trobe's View of Nature'. Richard discussed La Trobe's attitude to nature and the pastoral. I thought this quote from his paper relevant, also, to the Hamilton trip: 'He discovered new routes to distant places and covered more of the District on foot or on horseback than most of his successors did by coach and railway – or later by car'. La Trobe obviously had remarkable physical stamina. Richard described La Trobe's rambles through Europe, America and Mexico in the early 1800s where again his love and appreciation of the natural landscape and the 'picturesque' were captured in his books and paintings. Over time the Australian landscape grew on La Trobe and he came to both enjoy and appreciate it.

As Manager of the Old Treasury Building I was delighted in April to host a number of members to a private viewing of 'Gold & Governors' our 150 anniversary exhibition. The OTB was built on land that La Trobe has specifically reserved for government.

Remember also that there is a comprehensive list of the Society's publications on the website: www.latrobesociety.org.au

Diane Gardiner
Hon. President La Trobe Society

Professor A G L Shaw A O

3 February 1916 – 5 April 2012

A Tribute

It is with great sadness that the death of Professor Alan George Lewers Shaw AO, former President of the La Trobe Society, is recorded.

Professor Shaw, popularly known as 'AGL', is acclaimed as *the* historian of the colonial period of Australia's history, his *Gipps-La Trobe Correspondence* and *A History of the Port Phillip District* being two of his most influential works.

He was President of the La Trobe Society from 2002 to 2003 and continued to give typically wise counsel on many of its efforts in promoting recognition and understanding of the achievements of Victoria's first Lieutenant Governor.

A founding member of the La Trobe Society, he generously supported the commissioning of the fine bronze statue of Charles Joseph La Trobe by sculptor Peter Corlett OAM which stands on the forecourt of the State Library of Victoria, recognising that such a tribute to this visionary administrator was long overdue. In 2010, Professor Shaw sponsored a La Trobe Society Fellowship under the umbrella of the State Library, and this will lead to the publication of a fascinating approach to Port Phillip's colonial past, including a biography of Henry Condell, first Mayor of Melbourne, by Dr Helen MacDonald.

Professor Shaw was a founding member of the Committee of the Friends of the La Trobe Library, now the State Library of Victoria Foundation, and a member of the Library Council of Victoria from 1976 to 1985. He continually supported scholarship at the State Library, most recently hosting the *AGL Shaw Summer Research Fellowships* to help honours or postgraduate university students pursue research projects using the Library's unparalleled collections.

On a personal note, I was fortunate as a very inexperienced La Trobe Librarian to be able to call on Professor Shaw from time to time for valuable advice on developing the collection. I was privileged to work with him when he chaired a committee to commission and oversee the publication of the biography of Rev Joseph Orton, first clergyman to officiate at Port Phillip, and he was the expert advisor on my text of *Charles Joseph La Trobe, Landscapes and Sketches*, published by the State Library of Victoria and the Tarcoola Press in 1999.

Professor Shaw has influenced countless students, researchers and readers of Australian history and, since its inauguration, has been a popular presence at many La Trobe Society functions. He will be greatly missed.

Dianne Reilly
Hon Secretary

Introduction to Charles Joseph La Trobe's 211th Birthday Party

Introduction for the celebration of the 211th Birthday of Lieutenant Governor Charles Joseph La Trobe – from Adrienne E Clarke AC, Chancellor, La Trobe University on 25th March 2012

Thank you for the kind introduction and I am delighted to be here to celebrate what would have been Charles La Trobe's 211th birthday. Let me commence by acknowledging the traditional owners of the land as Charles La Trobe would have wished us to do:

I acknowledge the Wurrundjeri people of the Kulin Nations as the traditional custodians of the land on which we meet today. We recognize their ongoing connection to the land and value the contribution indigenous Australians make to Australian society and to La Trobe University.

It is also my pleasure to acknowledge the presence of distinguished guests particularly office holders of the Charles La Trobe Society: Ms Dianne Gardiner, President; Dr Dianne Reilly, Secretary; and Mr John Drury, Treasurer.

I had cause to reflect on the naming of the University for the first Lieutenant Governor of Victoria earlier this year while preparing the eulogy for Sir Archibald Glenn. Sir Archibald was commissioned in 1964 by the then Premier of Victoria, Mr Henry Bolte, to chair 'The Third University Committee' with a brief to 'advise the government on all matters relating to the establishment of a third University in Victoria'.[1] The committee included very distinguished leaders of the time including: Sir John Buchan, Sir Michael Chamberlain, Sir Thomas Cherry, Dr Philip Law, Professor Selby Smith and other leaders of the time. Together they considered many names and their unanimous recommendation was that it should be named after Lieutenant Governor Charles Joseph LaTrobe.

The reasons were threefold: firstly, because of the great historic significance of his name to Victoria, secondly, because the name was recognized internationally and thirdly because of La Trobe's personal qualities. Sir Archibald Glenn's description was that 'he had a lively interest in every aspect of life in the community, the will to work for the good of men and a sense of responsibility towards posterity'. I think this is a wonderful summary of the qualities of the man whose memory we honour today.

Since being appointed as Chancellor of La Trobe University last year, I have been delighted to have been able to promote the links between the University and the Charles La Trobe Society. I met with the office holders of the Society last year and we continue to find ways in which we can work together – for example, we have acquired copies of the collection of La Trobe's sketches and water colour paintings which we use as official gifts and which, I might add, are always received with much admiration for this beautiful production.

We are also working to find ways of interfacing through *La Trobeana* – the Society's journal. We are also in the process of creating a special space at the University for Distinguished Alumni and Emeritus Professors that will be called the Charles La Trobe lounge. We hope to decorate it with artifacts relevant to the life of Charles La Trobe and we hope that members of the society may be available to join us in the opening of this facility later this year

One of the ways in which we can work together is by using the academic talents of the University to enhance events run by the society. In that context I am pleased to introduce Professor Richard Broome, Professor of History. Professor Broome is the coordinator of the history program at La Trobe University and is a Fellow of the Academy of Humanities. He specializes in Aboriginal History and is the author of a book entitled 'Aboriginal Victorians' which has received widespread acclaim.

Ms Diane Gardiner, President, La Trobe Society addressing La Trobe Society members on the occasion of the Charles La Trobe's 211th Birthday celebrations in the grounds of La Trobe's Cottage.
Mr Martin Purslow, CEO, National Trust of Australia (Victoria), Professor Adrienne Clarke, AC, Chancellor, La Trobe University, Professor Robin Williams, La Trobe University.
Photographer, John Drury. 2012

1 Breen, William J Ed. *Building La Trobe University: Reflections on the first 25 years*. Melbourne: La Trobe University Press, 1989. Pp24 chapter 1 'The Planning Phase', Glenn, JRA.

Mr Martin Purslow, CEO, National Trust of Australia (Victoria), Professor Adrienne Clarke, AC, Chancellor, La Trobe University, Ms Diane Gardiner, President, La Trobe Society, Professor Robin Williams, La Trobe University, Professor Richard Broome, La Trobe University. On the occasion of the Charles La Trobe's 211th Birthday celebrations at Domain House.
Photographer, John Drury, 2012

Charles La Trobe's View of Nature

By Professor Richard Broome

Richard Broome is a Professor of History at La Trobe University and currently co-editor of Australian Historical Studies. He is the author of eight books, many articles and several documentary texts for VCE.

Richard Broome gave this important lecture on the occasion of the 211th Birthday Celebration of Charles Joseph La Trobe on 25 March 2012.

On 3 October 1839 Charles Joseph La Trobe was greeted as the first Superintendent of the Port Philip District by well-wishers at the fledgling Melbourne Club. They produced an address of welcome signed by 236 European settlers. La Trobe replied with pleasure, invoking the Almighty and promising to govern 'diligently, temperately and fearlessly'. He added:

> It is not by individual aggrandizement, by the possession of numerous herds or by costly acres that the people shall secure for the country enduring prosperity and happiness, but by the acquisition and maintenance of sound religious principles and moral institutions, without which no country can become truly great.[1]

La Trobe's declaration of the Civilizing Mission that he was to follow, was a product of his heritage. Dianne Reilly Drury has explored this admirably in her *La Trobe. The Making of a Governor* (2006).[2] La Trobe's forebears were Huguenots, Protestants in Catholic France who for several generations from the mid-sixteenth century fought for religious freedoms. Eventually Jean Latrobe emigrated from southern France to England with the army of William of Orange in 1688, who as a Protestant, was invited to take up the English Crown. William defeated James II at the battle of the Boyne 1689 and from that moment the English Monarchy became Protestant. Jean wounded at the Boyne settled in Waterford and entered the cotton cloth trade.

By the mid-eighteenth century the La Trobes had become Moravians based in England. Charles Joseph's grandfather Benjamin, was a Moravian bishop, and Benjamin's son [Charles Joseph La Trobe's father] Christian

Ignatius, was secretary of the United Brethren. Christian was also a missionary overseas for the Moravians and published a journal of his travels. Christian was a friend of William Wilberforce, a key member of the evangelical group, the Clapham Sect, which fought decisively to end Britain's involvement in the slave trade, and then to end slavery in the British sugar colonies in the Caribbean. Christian was an urbane man who composed sonatas and sacred music and counted the composer Franz Josef Haydn as a friend. Christian maintained contact with his six children by letter while overseas on mission work, including young Charles his third child. When Charles was fourteen, his father wrote to him about the importance of religious principles and living a life of piety. In this letter which has survived, Christian told his son a story about how young Charles when two-years-old was saved from a great fever. Christian believed Charles had been saved by Divine Providence for a purpose – to be God's servant in this life.

Naturally young Charles attended a Moravian school at Fulneck in Yorkshire, where he was further steeped in Moravian ideas. The Moravians were evangelicals who in the late eighteenth century influenced many beyond their numbers. The Anglican clergyman John Wesley was influenced by Moravians when in America and experienced a religious rebirth. Wesley's followers became the powerhouse of nineteenth Evangelicalism – forming the Methodist Church. The Moravians, being evangelicals, believed in the Fall of Man through original sin. The only path to salvation was through the Atonement of Christ as Saviour and by Faith in Christ – not good works alone. The Moravians being evangelicals were messianic too – believing that one should save others after saving oneself. That is why Charles' father, Christian Ignatius La Trobe was a lifelong missionary. These religious ideas influenced young Charles, and shaped his decision to become a Moravian teacher when he finished his education. However, while at school he also learnt languages and Science – especially Botany – and the art of drawing; which skills were to be as influential in his life's journey as his religious ideas.

La Trobe and the Natural World

After two years as a teacher in England, Charles La Trobe moved to Neuchâtel in Switzerland in 1824, to become a tutor to the children of the Comte Frederic de Pourtales for the next four years. These were very happy times and in this circle he was to find his life partners.

Charles Joseph La Trobe, 1801-1875, artist
The Grampians from Mt. Dryden, March 1850
Sepia wash
Collection: National Trust of Australia (Victoria).
Deposited on long-term loan in the La Trobe Picture Collection, State Library of Victoria

But before that, Charles engaged deeply with nature. While at Neuchâtel he began walking – and given the terrain – climbing. Indeed, he engaged in what we might call mountaineering. The young La Trobe then in his mid-twenties was in the prime of his fitness and engaged in some adventurous treks. He often journeyed solo and tackled and triumphed over some unclimbed peaks. Taking a break from tutoring he undertook three long treks in different directions from Neuchâtel. In these he confronted nature alone and with exuberance. At times he pushed himself to the limit – as some young men do – writing after one hard day's trekking, 'I felt both body and soul fagged'.[3] His walking tours produced his first book, *The Alpenstock: Or, Sketches of Swiss Scenery and Manner, 1825-1826* published in 1830 to warm reviews. In this book he revealed not only stories of his trekking but his responses to the natural world. Some were in sketches, but I want to focus here on his words. What shaped La Trobe's responses to nature?

The 'picturesque' was one of the dominant ideas that framed the viewing of nature in the nineteenth century.[4] It was a cultural fashion which emerged from the earlier idea of the 'beautiful' to influence most who viewed nature then and to this day. It came from an emerging connection between beautiful scenery and painting, which suggested landscapes could be viewed as pictures – enhancing visual pleasure. As Christopher Hussey wrote; 'to describe this "painter's view" of nature, the word *pittoresco* was coined, meaning "after the manner of painters".[5]

Painters framed picturesque scenes on their canvasses and young Charles did the same on his page. He wrote of Avenches near the Lake of Morat: 'The country at the back reminds me of many parts of England. Gentle hills, covered with wood, meadows, and cornfields, separated by hedgerows filled with trees. The present town occupies the site of what was once the castle'.[6] Here La Trobe recorded a scene he perceived as beautiful and framed as picturesque, not least because it was filled with nostalgia of home. It was also ordered and comfortable, being shaped by human action onto a canvas of 'gentle hills'. There was a Romantic element discernable, as the castle crumbled quaintly into ancient ruins.

Romanticism was another dominant European fashion in viewing nature from the late eighteenth century onwards. William Wordsworth reflected this European-wide movement in much of his poetry which engaged with nature. Part of this was discerning a spirit and a joy within nature. Wordsworth's poem 'Nutting' written the year before La Trobe was born, ends with the lines as Wordsworth reaches out to pluck a bough of nuts and destroy a part of nature: 'In gentleness of heart; with gentle hand/ Touch – for there is a spirit in the woods'. This poet's engagement with nature was often marked too by solitude, which La Trobe seemed to relish in his solitary trekking. Wordsworth ended his evocation of a sea of daffodils with these lyrical thoughts:

> For oft, when on my couch I lie
> In vacant or in pensive mood,
> They flash upon that inward eye
> Which is the bliss of solitude;
> And then my heart with pleasure fills,
> And dances with the daffodils.[7]

This way of seeing nature heralded a new sensibility – the 'man of feeling' – who was alive to the beauty of nature; was concerned about the treatment and welfare of animals; and was infused with humanitarian ideals. We can see La Trobe as such a 'man of feeling', when he wrote of his rapturous and pantheistic view of the natural world:

> I have seldom held a flower
> in my hand, which I did not
> think curious and beautiful
> enough to have bloomed in
> paradise, and never returned
> the insect or reptile to its
> bed of leaves, without feeling
> that the link that binds me to
> every living thing has become
> strengthened.[8]

The sublime was another key nineteenth-century manner of reading nature. It was defined by Edmund Burke in the mid-eighteenth century as being associated with ideas of astonishment that suspended thought, and with feelings of terror induced by the presence of passion, power and danger in nature.[9] It was often connected to mountainous regions, which in the European tradition had been perceived as dangerous, not stemming simply from ideas of massive size, but being places beyond the pale of civilisation. Mountainous regions were zones where wildness and disorder thrived and were to be avoided as dangerous.[10] However, a softening of the woods by writers of the German renaissance in the sixteenth century, and a greater engagement with the diversities of nature, tamed mountainous regions over time. Eighteenth century travelers to the French and Italian Alps went in search of 'delightful horror' and physical challenge.[11]

Romanticism also stemmed from 'agreeable horror' which softened wildness.[12] William Wordsworth who walked through the Alps in France and Switzerland in 1790 'grieved to have a soulless image on the eye' when he first saw the summit of Mount Blanc, but below 'the wondrous Vale of Charmony stretched far below' inhabited by birdsong and reapers binding yellow sheaves and maidens spreading the haycock in the sun. He wrote too of mountain herdsmen and their pastures, where all sounds of herder, cattle and nature 'blend in a music of tranquillity' and at the end of day the herder 'lies, out-stretched, at even-tide/Upon the fragrant mountain's purple side'.[13] When on the Wengern Alp a generation later, La Trobe wrote in the *Alpenstock* in the same mixed vein:

> All rose before me in unclouded
> sublimity: the early morning
> sun lighting up one peak after
> another, and making the long
> waste of glaciers between them
> sparkle with the whiteness and
> brilliancy of burnished silver.
> As the sun rose higher, the light
> stole downwards towards the
> immense range of dark granite
> precipices which supported
> them.[14]

La Trobe chose the word 'sublimity' well, for he felt small in the vastness of the scene. There was beauty there, of the light reflecting like 'burnished silver', but also a foreboding, almost a terror posed by the immense 'dark granite precipices'. This was truly the sublime, a mixture of awe and discomfort of delightful horror that marked it from the picturesque.

Charles Joseph La Trobe, 1801-1875, artist
The Grampians from neighbourhood of Mt. Dryden, 1850
Pencil and sepia wash
Collection: National Trust of Australia (Victoria).
Deposited on long-term loan in the La Trobe Picture Collection, State Library of Victoria

Charles Joseph La Trobe, 1801-1875, artist
The Grampians from Mt. Dryden, March 1850
Sepia wash
Collection: National Trust of Australia (Victoria).
Deposited on long-term loan in the La Trobe Picture Collection, State Library of Victoria

La Trobe's religious ideas were also reflected in his view of nature. Not only did he discern a pantheistic spirit at large in the natural world – 'a spirit in the woods' – but there was to his mind as an evangelical Christian, a direct presence of God in the world and nature. The beauty, power, diversity and complexity of nature were all evidence of God's presence. La Trobe wrote: 'I am a great and ardent admirer of the works of God, in all of which, from the stars of heaven to the ridge sporting in the sun-beam, I find abundant food for thought'.[15] When La Trobe survived a hard day's trekking, especially if losing his way, or when facing some perilous ice or snow, it was due to Divine Providence.

After four years La Trobe left Neuchâtel and experienced a grand tour of Italy in 1839, which was *de rigueur* for unattached young men and chaperoned young women of some means, to be initiated in the wonders of European civilization. La Trobe toured the Italian Alps, and the treasures of Rome and Venice and produced more sketches and another book of impressions – *The Pedestrian: A Summer's Ramble in the Tyrol and Some of the Adjacent Provinces, 1830* (1832). Then in 1832 he was off to America as chaperone to young Albert de Pourtales, who was to experience the world. La Trobe again engaged with all things around him, including nature, remarking that the locusts sang in the key of C sharp. He remarked too of America, 'that if on any part of His earthly creation, the finger of God has drawn characters which would seem to indicate the seat of empire – surely it is there'.[16] However, he did not seem to experience the same exuberance of nature as in the Alps of Italy and Switzerland. He then travelled to Mexico. These journeys let to three more books *The Rambler in North America*,1832-1833 (1835) and *The Rambler in Mexico, 1834* (1836) as well as many sketches.

La Trobe returned to Neuchâtel where he married Sophie de Montmollin in 1835. Now a married man, with a child and few prospects, he sought a position through the patronage network in England, no doubt through connections of his father and the Clapham Sect, which at that time controlled the Colonial Office. He was offered a commission in the West Indies to report on the education system of ex-slaves. La Trobe produced meticulous reports on black education in three British West Indian possessions. The Colonial Office pleased with his efforts and no doubt swayed by Clapham House patronage, offered La Trobe oversight of a distant frontier of British capitalism – the Port Phillip District of New South Wales – a sheep walk in its infancy on the southern shores of the Australian continent; one still steeped in convictism.

He accepted this posting and never wrote another book of ramblings. But he did sketch and completed 168 of them over almost fifteen years in the colonies – and he did ramble! Indeed La Trobe showed much energy for a man in his forties and experienced days of hard riding in all weathers with joy rather than misery. Indeed Alan Shaw in his monumental *A History of the Port Phillip District. Victoria before Separation* (1996), calculated that La Trobe made ninety-four journeys in all, at an average of seven per annum. He discovered new routes to distant places and 'covered more of the District on foot or on horseback than most of his successors did by coach and railway – or later by car'.[17] What then did La Trobe think of what he saw? This is a question that Dianne Reilly Drury was unable to countenance given she grappled with the history of his administration of a rumbustious colony that presented impossible problems concerning its 'taming' and 'civilizing' from 'nothing', and the vexed question of the ownership of land and gold.

La Trobe and the Natural World of Port Philip

When he has been in Port Phillip a little over a year, La Trobe wrote to his friend the publisher, John Murray, in a most revealing way. He exclaimed:

> You, my dear Sir, 16,000 miles from civilization, and cannot imagine what it is to be cast so far beyond the reach of the thousand daily means of improvement and enjoyment which they possess who breathe the air of Europe; you therefore cannot know the pleasure we experience when we feel that, so far removed, there is still a chain connecting us with the old country which vibrates occasionally, and proves to us that we are at least upon the surface of the same planet with our kind and kindred.

La Trobe likened his position to that of an 'exile'. He vehemently rejected the thought of the La Trobes being 'Emigrants', and the thought that he might die in Australia and not make it Home. He told Murray he found Australia discordant; remarking further in the letter:

> Society here is, of course as you may suppose, in its infancy. The arts and sciences are unborn. Nature itself seems to be only in her swaddling clothes. The natives, for their part, look like a race of beings that were never discovering that he or she is not marsupial, like the other wild animals upon the same uncouth continent. The main interest here in everything consists in the oddity, and odd enough everything is, if that is to your taste; but there is but little variety, and one soon tires of any monstrosity. Meanwhile English, and I should say British, perseverance and industry are effecting their usual marvels; and, in spite of many disadvantages, the Colony of Port Philip is advancing physically with extraordinary rapidity.[18]

It was a poignant cry of nostalgia from an urbane Englishman in the New World, who was at a loss for the sights, the smells, the feel, the very ambience of England. Despite living in 'tolerable tranquillity [sic]' in a 'pretty cottage' two kilometers from Melbourne, he felt restless. He yearned to see Murray again in Albemarle Street and 'to see something that dates further back than the year 1834', to 'discover an ancient city, or see one'.

Yet Australia mellowed his attitude. As La Trobe rambled and voyaged across the lands of Port Phillip ninety-four times over the next thirteen years, he found affection for, and occasionally much delight in the natural world before him. Much of this was expressed in his memoranda of journeys and also letters to Sophie, his 'dearest wife', to family and friends at Home, and also to Ronald Campbell Gunn, the former private secretary of Sir John Franklin. Gunn, later a member of the Royal Society in London, was a naturalist and editor of the *Tasmanian Journal of Natural Science*.

La Trobe often discerned the picturesque in Port Phillip landscapes. In 1844 for instance he journeyed for a fortnight alone '*un grand galope*' to the Goulburn River, Franklinford and then onto the Pyrenees and the Grampians before returning to Melbourne. On ascending Mount William he exclaimed: 'I really do not know what to admire most'. On the one hand he saw the 'extraordinary view, which comprises the whole of the Grampians & Victoria chains in the Vicinity, as broken & picturesque in the details as any chain of the class I ever saw', but he also commanded a view of 'the vast area of plain…a Circle, the radius of which is from 70 to 80 miles'. The botany of the area was exhilaratingly new and 'exceedingly beautiful' and he lamented

having no means to extract some 'spoils'.[19] He was in the Pyrenees area on other occasions. In March 1848 he journeyed from Buninyong to the Wimmera valley then onto the Grampians where he crossed through Rose's Gap whose scenery was 'really very fine' the 'precipices of naked & broken rock rising 1000 feet over the wooded parks'.[20] In January 1850 he wrote to Sophie – his 'ma Cherie' – wishing she were with him as 'nothing is in my enjoyment of the fine scenery in the midst of these picturesque hills but that only of my wife & children'.[21] He returned to Rose's Gap in 1853 and captured the grandeur of what he saw in a fine sketch.

Charles Joseph La Trobe, 1801-1875, artist
Mt Sturgeon, 1850; Mt Abrupt, 1850
Pencil and ink
Collection: National Trust of Australia (Victoria).
Deposited on long-term loan in the La Trobe Picture Collection, State Library of Victoria

Port Phillip presented La Trobe with sublime moments as well. While at the Grampians he marveled at the structure of Mount William which he found 'extraordinary'. He believed it was not volcanic but formed of sandstone grit, but it 'shows every sign of being *shoved* up to its present height & position by volcanic agency'. The head of the mountain was 'more bizarre' than those in Switzerland which it resembled.[22] However, more sublime was 'Lubras' Cave' east of Warrnambool which La Trobe visited in 1846. It had been discovered in a near disaster by a squatter John M. Allan, whose horse fortunately leapt a cavern in the ground while Allan was riding across a scrubby coastline. La Trobe and his party visited this series of caverns formed by action of the sea by scrambling through them from the seaward side. They were guarded by a ten-metre high 'beautiful arch of magnificent coloured rock, upon which the effect of the light thrown up from the breakers, as they broke on the steep shore line, was more beautiful than I can describe'. They negotiated several passage ways into several large caverns lighted by funnel-like orifices. He called one cavern the 'Star Chamber' and the funnels 'gothic lanterns', remarking 'I have seen many caverns, but none of equal beauty, from the peculiar character of the lighting-up'. The sublime nature of this natural wonder was intensified by deep layers of bat guano on the floor, which his substantial stick did not find the bottom of, and hundreds of stirred and airborne bats obscuring the light above in strobe-like flickers.[23]

Charles La Trobe found wonder everywhere he travelled. He continually examined and collected plants of the New World. In March 1848 he remarked of the Grampians, 'I see a great many new flowers. I am convinced that a host of perfectly new things would be found here in the spring'.[24] At the same time he cultivated plants of the Old World in his garden at *Jolimont*. He sought these from friends at Home, for instance requesting in December 1844, 'English field flowers seed & you may send us a box of bulbs'.[25] The La Trobe and McCrae families were firm friends and Georgiana recorded that 'Mr La Trobe' brought her 'flower-roots for my garden' and showed her gardener how to plant vine cuttings.[26] He also exchanged plants and seeds with Ronald Gunn in Launceston Tasmania. It was thus not surprising that La Trobe was intimately involved in the creation of the Botanic Gardens in 1846 and the laying aside of land for the Fitzroy Gardens and Royal Park in 1849. La Trobe wrote to Gunn that he was delighted that 'an honest looking German' Dr Muëller – who was 'more of a botanist than any man I have hitherto met with in the Colony', had named a genus and two plants after La Trobe, one a pretty dwarf acacia which flowered at Jolimont.[27] La Trobe told Gunn that he would give von Mueller 'every encouragt', and such was the two-way street of nineteenth century patronage, that La Trobe appointed von Mueller as government botanist in 1853.[28]

Gunn who resided in Launceston corresponded with La Trobe in exchanges that nourished both. They discussed scientific information and swapped specimens and meteorological data. They pondered fossils, fish washed ashore after storms, and the first specimens of gold flecks in quartz. While he was in Hobart in January 1847 to report on the convict system, La Trobe told Gunn he regretted he had not the means to buy Mr Valentine's microscope as Valentine must sell it. They corresponded while La Trobe was still in Van Diemen's Land about a 'Bunyep's head' found in the Murrumbidgee River north of the Port Phillip District. Captain William Lonsdale wrote to La Trobe, who wrote to Gunn, that the specimen's head revealed an animal with a long but broken snout. It had 'a long bill-like snout the forehead rising abruptly the eye placed very low – strong grinders, cavity for brain very large'. The blacks say complete heads had two long tusks projecting downward and sources suspect it must be 'a very large animal'. La Trobe drew it for Gunn, asking: 'what do you make of it?' Either La Trobe or Dr Hobson of South Yarra, wrote it up for Gunn's *Tasmanian Journal*, but by April La Trobe asked Gunn to withdraw 'the article' as Hobson was having 'strong misgivings'.[29]

Charles Joseph La Trobe, 1801-1875, artist
Mt Misery & Burrumbeet, 1849
Pencil and sepia wash
Collection: National Trust of Australia (Victoria).
Deposited on long-term loan in the La Trobe Picture Collection, State Library of Victoria

La Trobe continued to find great exhilaration in nature as he did in the European Alps. He was able to repeat his youthful Alpen ascents in Port Philip. In 1844 he climbed Mount William in the Grampians at 1,168 metres with Captain Bunbury who leased a nearby station. They set out on a cloudless early summer's day and when faced with the last 50 metres of rock wall, spied 'a furrow' through which to ascend into clear sunshine to command an 'extraordinary' vista. La Trobe remarked 'I felt almost boyish delight in finding I could achieve a downright Alpine scramble, up the steep face of that singular pile, with as much spirit as ever'.[30] Three years later when in Van Diemen's Land, La Trobe 'scrambled' up Mount Wellington with George Courteny on Saturday afternoon and 'after a very hard tussel in the dense forest' arrived home at 9 pm.[31] Most of his journeys were on horseback and despite being lost in scrub at times, and out all day in drenching rain on others, he declared himself better for it and regretted the piles of correspondence waiting him back at the office. During one journey to Portland and back in February 1849 he wrote to Gunn, after battling 'terrible scrub' for five days between Cape Paton and Gellibrand: 'the roughing and exercise, and half starvation and freedom from official turmoil did me a great deal of good'.[32] In December 1850 he again wrote to Gunn that he felt 'a little jaded – but a rough ride & a scramble in the scrub bring me round most wonderfully'.[33] Victoria has never had such a vigorous governor – as he became six months later with Separation. It was quite amazing that the senior official of the colony undertook so much adventure, and often alone, or with just one other companion.

La Trobe and the Meanings of his Engagement with Nature

What meanings do these engagements between La Trobe and nature have – for La Trobe and for us?

La Trobe viewed nature through prisms of religion, new nineteenth-century sensibilities and a sense of masculinity. First, he had a deeply religious upbringing and the natural world was for him evidence of God's existence and presence. But for La Trobe it was a rational god much like the way Descartes viewed the Divine. God was no trickster, for he gave mankind the power of rational thought and guaranteed that rationality and evidenced-based faith: as Descartes declared 'I think, therefore I am'. La Trobe's view of the natural world was religious but also infused with a desire for and belief in scientific investigation. Knowing nature was part of knowing God. Second, his sense of beauty and wonder in nature also expressed a Wordsworth-like Romantic sense as we have seen. However, it also reflected the new

sensibilities of his Age. La Trobe was born at the turn of the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, when British culture was influenced by the emergence of evangelicalism and humanitarian ideas, which underpinned the cult of 'the man of feeling'. Slaves were to be set free, animals were not to be tormented, and civilization was to triumph over the uncouth. Third, La Trobe's relationship to nature expressed his personal sense of masculinity. His ninety-four journeys of significant duration across Port Phillip; his scrambling up peaks in two colonies; and his days of hard riding in all weathers, camping out at times when a settler's station homestead could not be found or reached, all were expressions of his masculine robustness and his joy in physicality. La Trobe gloried in the outdoors, based on his sense of exhilaration with the natural world and his deep curiosity about it. He was driven by both his sense of wonder and his considerable energy.

Charles Joseph La Trobe, 1801-1875, artist
Hall's Gap in the Grampians, 1848
Pencil and sepia wash
Collection: National Trust of Australia (Victoria).
Deposited on long-term loan in the La Trobe Picture Collection, State Library of Victoria

For us, La Trobe was first an agent of colonialism and British Imperialism. In this sense he was a prime broker in the dispossession of Port Phillip from indigenous people. He was in fact the local man in charge of an effort to transplant British culture into the New World by the simultaneous act of 'supplanting' indigenous cultures. David Day in *Conquest* [2005] has written that supplanting societies make three sorts of claims to possess the territory of others: legal, proprietorial and moral claims.[34] La Trobe was not involved in legal claims, for he came more than two generations after Cook's act of possession in 1770. However, he played a significant role in the practical possessing of Port Philip, being the superintendent in charge from the time of the first land sales to the establishment of hegemony in the 1840s and the demographic flooding of the colony with the discovery of gold. La Trobe helped make Port Phillip's lands European by various forms of possessing, which David Day has laid out in *Conquest*. He explored the land perhaps like no other one settler did during ninety-four journeys. He actually pioneered ways to the Otways and Gippsland. He possessed the land by mapping it – and sketching it extensively – and also by at times naming places; another form of possessing. He came to know it for himself and for others, by collecting plants, by investigating fossils, and by helping to categorise it, both as picturesque and sublime. La Trobe was rendering Port Phillip as a European landscape, or attempting to so do. His memoranda, reports and letters made knowledge about the natural world of Port Phillip, furthering the European possession of it. He wrote with triumph after traversing the Otways through the fern gullies of Turton's track, descending to Wild Dog Creek and riding along the coast to the Aire Valley: 'push forward, and reach the highest sandhill and know that we have really found Cape Otway'.[35]

In the confines of Melbourne he also made the land European. His insistence that Melbourne have a botanic garden was part of transforming the natural world in Port Philip, as the gardens acted as a civilizing force that would model how the land should be transformed. Even in the beloved surrounds of *Jolimont* cottage, La Trobe tamed and transformed. Katie Homes, Susan Martin and Kylie Mirhomardi in their *Reading the Garden. The Settlement of Australia* (2008) have shown how gardening is an act of possession.[36] Not only did gardening blend one's labour with the land – which in the thinking of John Locke created private ownership of land – but working the soil and making gardens were expressions of cultural ideas, including ethnic, class and gendered ideas of land and landscape. As La Trobe planted English seeds and bulbs behind picket fences and cultivated cacti in rockeries, he and Sophie shaped the garden with a European signature. Even where he cultivated native plants he formed an appropriation of a natural world into an English garden. All of these acts were possessions and transformations. Nature for him was in 'swaddling clothes' in Australia, it was childlike and had to be made adult by taming and development – including with the spade.

There was a moral possession implied here too. The 'uncouth continent' had to be made couth by his civilizing mission, to be accomplished by education, by religion, by sketching, by observing and categorizing. La Trobe sponsored, encouraged, and patronized – all quite successfully – a Mechanics Institute, churches, schools, asylum, public hospital, a public library, and a university.[37] His only real failure culturally, was to understand what good Aboriginal policy might entail. He had an innovative instrument at hand – the Port Philip Protectorate but neither he nor his superior George Gipps, gave it the support it warranted.[38]

Indeed in the battle over the land, La Trobe silently favoured the squatters. He followed Gipps' line that the squatters' attempt to gain a monopoly over the land had to be thwarted. Yet he knew and understood these men, many of whom he had stayed with and accepted their hospitality after long bush rides. La Trobe generally favoured the preemptive right of squatters to have first right of purchase over the land they had leased.[39] La Trobe never criticized the squatters' endeavours, for he believed in development and took pride in the fact that he was overseeing the transformation of what became Victoria. He also expressed little sense of how nature was being transformed by pastoralism. By the late 1840s barking trees for roofing, and ring barking to encourage grass was taking its toll on the trees of Port Philip. The grasses of the land were being changed by sheep and weeds were intruding. Erosion was emerging as cloven hooved sheep in the millions were now trampling the soft soils of ancient Port Philip.[40] This would have been evident to La Trobe upon retirement once he read some of the many letters he collected from pioneers to take back to England to form into a history of Port Philip. This task was never achieved by him, but they later emerged as *Letters from Victorian Pioneers* edited by Francis Bride in 1898.

However, like Gipps, La Trobe he did not believe in monopoly. The matter came to a head with the promulgation of the 1847 Orders in Council that settled the decade-long bitter dispute with the squatters over land. The orders gave the squatters long leases and the preemptive right of purchase or compensation for improvements. La Trobe acted decisively over the matter of public interest for the future. First he accelerated the promulgation of town and village sites, seventy-nine being gazetted between 1847 and 1854, to which the squatters did not object as they needed supply depots. However, immediately before the Orders in Council were promulgated he asked the crown lands commissioners 'to report in what position and to what extent Reserves for the public advantage should be made along the public thoroughfares or elsewhere in …[your] district'.[41] The commissioners laid aside mineral deposits, forests, water reserves, Aboriginal reserves and the like. The squatters attacked the extent of the reserved areas but La Trobe to his credit, followed the matter through and stored up a vast treasure of land and resources for future public use. This was one of the greatest legacies of his administration and a significant modification to the bald possessing of the country by the squattocracy.

La Trobe, like most of his contemporaries, had no inkling what settlement did to nature. To them nature was god-given, bounteous and unlimited in its resources and power. It was not until George Perkins Marsh published his classic *Man and Nature* (1864) that the destructiveness of human settlement began to be more widely appreciated.

To La Trobe, nature was a delight, a place of refreshment, and as God's domain, both inviolable and invulnerable. It is fitting then, that a farm in outer Melbourne in the 1960s was transformed into a bird-filled Australian bushland by human action. It became La Trobe University, named in 1967 after Charles Joseph La Trobe. It is now one of the most beautiful campuses in Australia, where each day nature can delight – but in an Australian way – with the raucous calls of red-rumped parrots, wattle birds and sulphur-crested cockatoos, swamping the gentler song of superb fairy wrens and yellow-throated miners. La Trobe was moving to an appreciation of nature with each journey through the antipodean bush. He would have approved mightily of this bushy, civilising place set aside for education in the public interest.

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19 La Trobe to ? [unknown] December 1844, Blake, *Letters,* p. 16.

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31 La Trobe to Gunn 23 January 1847, Blake, *Letters,* p. 20.

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Charles La Trobe in the Western District

Fifty members of the La Trobe Society toured the Western District of Victoria from 18 – 20 November 2011, using Hamilton as a base and visiting many of the places familiar to La Trobe on his various rides to the west of Melbourne.

Organisers of this memorable visit were La Trobe Society members Wes and Cassie Rogers, Heather Heard and Roz Greenwood who did everything possible to make this tour an enjoyable one.

Properties visited were *Correagh,* a rural property located just outside the town of Hamilton, with an early bluestone house and detached kitchen wing, built c1855 by Cuthbert Fetherstonhaugh, the Police Magistrate of Hamilton, then called the Grange, where we were hosted by Wes and Cassie Rogers; *Murndal,* a property established on the Wannon River by Samuel Pratt Winter in 1837 where our hosts were Marcus and Julia Winter–Cooke, and Catherine Winter-Cooke; *Merino Downs,* built in 1837, where La Trobe visited Francis Henty and his family, and our hosts were Francis and Sally Henty-Anderson; *Kolor, a* bluestone mansion on the slopes of Mount Rouse built for John and Daniel Twomey in 1868, now owned by Graham and Jenny Strang; and *Warrayure,* one of Stephen Henty's properties built in the early 1860s, where we were welcomed by owner Scott McIntyre. The La Trobe Society thanks all our hosts who warmly welcomed us all to their historic domains.

The articles which follow are from the historians who spoke at each venue.

Dianne Reilly

La Trobe Society Treasurer John Drury with historian Bernard Wallace in the wool shed at Merino Downs
John Chambers, photographer. 2011.

Correagh: Home of Wes and Cassie Rogers

Members of the La Trobe Society were welcomed to the Western District on Friday evening, 18 November 2011, with a delightful cocktail party on the north-eastern lawns of *Correagh*, the family home of Wes and Cassie Rogers. *Correagh* is a charming old bluestone house which, understandably, holds a special place in the heart of its owners. Wes Rogers, whose father bought the 36-hectare property in the 1960s, spent his childhood and early adult years there, was married on the verandah, and now lives there with Cassie and their two children, Phoebe and Sebastian. Wes has a deep interest not only in the property which he maintains fastidiously, but in the whole Western District, and is very knowledgeable about the history of the region. He loves the property for its historic associations with the district, its glorious views in every direction, and its extensive gardens. The property is registered on Heritage Victoria's *Victorian Heritage Database*.

Correagh is a rural property, located just outside the town of Hamilton, with an early bluestone house and detached kitchen wing and a nearby stable building. The main part of the house and the stable were built c1855 by Cuthbert Fetherstonhaugh, the Police Magistrate of Hamilton, then called the Grange. Fetherstonhaugh (1803-1892) was an educated Irishman of some means who migrated to Victoria in 1852 with two of his three sons. His younger son, also called Cuthbert, who was later to become well known for his autobiography, *After Many Days* (1918), joined him in 1853, and his wife and five daughters in 1856. After acting briefly as the Police Magistrate at the Buckland River (Beechworth), Cuthbert senior was appointed in 1854 to the same position in Hamilton, which he occupied until 1869.

Soon after arriving in Hamilton, he purchased 250 acres [101 hectares] just outside the town, at a place where the explorer Major Mitchell had camped in 1836 on his return journey to Sydney. He built there what would then have been one of the best houses in the district. No architect has been identified for the house. The stable was built at about the same time as the house and the detached bluestone kitchen wing, later called the schoolhouse, was added later, perhaps in the 1870s.

Correagh. 2011
Wes Rogers, photographer

Wes Rogers welcoming the La Trobe Society to Correagh. 2011
John Drury, photographer

Correagh is situated at the top of a hill, with views north-east towards the Grampians. The house is a single-storey building with walls of coursed random bluestone rubble and with an M-shaped corrugated iron-clad roof. On the north and east side of the house there are verandahs, with French windows opening into the main rooms, and a new verandah has been added to the west. On the west side of the house, and separated from it by a covered walkway, is the later bluestone wing which has two rooms, originally a kitchen and bedroom. West of the house is the stable building, which retains part of its original stone floor and its horse stalls, and the original roof shingles are retained beneath the later corrugated iron roof. The house is surrounded by a picturesque and flourishing rose garden, and an orchard dating from the mid- to late-twentieth century.

Correagh is significant for its association with Cuthbert Featherstonhaugh, the Hamilton Police Magistrate from 1854 until 1869, who built the house and lived there until his death in 1892. Fetherstonhaugh was a leader of the local community and made an outstanding contribution to the development of the district. He was one of a number of Anglo-Irish gentlemen in this part of the Western District. Members of the family lived in the house until the 1920s.

Correagh is of historical and architectural significance to the state of Victoria. It is historically significant as one of the oldest surviving residences in the Hamilton district. It is an unusually intact example of a villa residence and stable built by a prominent member of the Hamilton community on the outskirts of the town. It is a reflection of the way of life of the well-to-do residents of country Victoria in the mid-nineteenth century. For the Rogers family, *Correagh* is the centre of a delightful modern lifestyle full of references to its historic past.

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Charles La Trobe and the Winters of Tahara and Spring Valley/Murndal

by Dr Gordon Forth

Warrnambool historian and former university lecturer, Dr Gordon Forth is author of numerous books, including: *The Winters on the Wannon* (Deakin University Press, 1981), and *The Biographical Dictionary of the Western District of Victoria* (Halstead Press, 2002)

Let me first comment on the circumstances that saw the brothers Winter – Samuel, George and Trevor – and their sister Arbella, make to journey from County Meath, Ireland, to seek their fortune in what was then the unexplored wilderness of Australia Felix .

Murndal or *Spring Valley* was initially part of George and Samuel Winter's fifty thousand acres *Tahara* run located in the fertile Wannon River valley. The Winters of Agher, County Meath, were descendants of a Reverend Samuel Winter who, in 1650, was summoned to Ireland as chaplain to Cromwell's Commissioners, and later became Provost of Trinity College Dublin. During his sixteen years in Ireland, Winter managed to acquire several forfeited Catholic estates in Meath and West Meath.

Following the end of the Napoleonic Wars, Ireland's Protestant landed class faced hard times, with reduced income from their estates and few career opportunities open to younger sons. As a family, the Winters had little success in arranging marriage alliances with well off Anglo-Irish families, or in obtaining financially rewarding public sinecures. By the early 1830s, there was insufficient income to support the growing number of adult dependants of the Winter family as members of Ireland's landed class.

As an orphaned younger son of a younger son, Samuel Pratt Winter's prospects were particularly bleak if he remained in Ireland. In 1833, Winter then aged nineteen, was offered the position of convict overseer on William Bryan's *Cluan* estate in Van Diemen's Land. The Bryan's of Spring Valley, County Meath, were neighbours of Winter's uncle and guardian John Pratt Winter of Agher.

William Bryan's older brother Samuel was married to Jane Henty. Consequently the Bryans and Samuel Winter were well-informed of the Hentys' whaling and pastoral activities across Bass Strait in the vicinity of Portland Bay. William Bryan had arrived in Hobart in 1824 and soon became one of the colony's major landowners and operator of a flour mill at Carrick. However, when Winter arrived in 1833, he found his employer embroiled in a serious and protracted dispute with Governor George Arthur's administration. Bryan was subsequently charged with allowing his convict servants to steal his neighbours' wild or unbranded cattle, which was a capital offence. Bryan eventually fled the colony to London where he waged an unsuccessful campaign for compensation through the Colonial Office.

Being closely associated with the Bryans, Winter and the Hentys thought it advisable to seek their fortunes across Bass Strait. In 1837, with his own small flock of merinos, Winter established a temporary run east of Portland near Mount Clay. After undertaking an expedition on the Wannon with Stephen Henty, Winter moved his sheep north to the Wannon in March 1838 using a track through the Heywood Forest.

Samuel had written to his brothers George and Trevor and sister Arbella urging them to join him as pastoral pioneers on the Wannon. Trevor was only sixteen when they boarded a vessel bound for Hobart under the care of William Bryan's agent. On the voyage out, Arbella met and subsequently married a young Englishmen, Cecil Pybus Cooke. Marcus Winter Cooke, the current owner of *Murndal*, is the great-grandson of Cecil and Arbella's second son, Cecil Trevor Cooke, whose older brother Samuel took the name Winter Cooke when he inherited *Murndal* from his uncle Samuel Pratt Winter in 1878.

One of the remarkable features of this historic property is that it has remained in the same family since Winter first occupied what became his *Spring Valley* run. In 1853, the station was renamed *Murndal*, the natives' name for a permanent spring near the homestead, when Winter acquired the freehold to a substantial part of his former run. The reasons for Winter's choice of location for his run were obvious enough. Apart from the general suitability of the Wannon country for sheep grazing, the *Tahara/Spring Valley* run included a lengthy stretch of the Wannon River which provided permanent drinking water for stock.

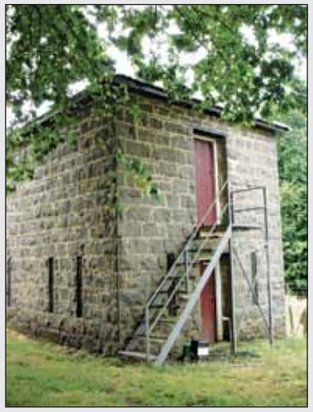
Shearing Shed, Murndal.
Photographer: John Chambers.

The Winters, the Wandeet Tribe and La Trobe

Three separate incidents, which resulted in the deaths of members the Wandeet tribe, brought the names of Samuel, George and Trevor Winter to the attention of La Trobe and his officials.

During the first decade of pastoral settlement in Australia Felix, disputes with local Aboriginal people caused the ruin of many pioneering squatters and the deaths of hundreds of natives. Such disputes resulted in the heavy stock losses, the mass desertion of shepherds and even the abandonment of stations. Until the establishment of Foster Fyans' Native Police in May 1839, the squatters in the Portland Bay District had no official protection against native attacks, and were inclined to take matters into

their own hands. While the Hentys experienced considerable trouble with the Wandeet tribe, Samuel Winter in later life stated that: 'When I came to this place, *Tahara*, the natives treated me with the greatest kindness'[1]. The *Tahara* Aboriginal people bestowed the names of their former chiefs Wenberriman and Osteriman on Samuel and Trevor Winter.



Cool Store, Murndal.
Photographer: John Chambers

Sometime in 1838, following the poisoning of Aboriginal people by the overseer of *Glenelg* Station, Winter learned that a large number of natives had gathered at *Tahara* to:

> … plan the massacre of the white population of *Mount Napier Station* in retaliation. With much persuasion I learned from the chief that they intended to kill everyone on the station where the natives had been poisoned. I went with him to the camp and I believe that, had I not been with him, he would have been killed for having told me. After much energy and discussion, I induced them to give up the project. I assured them that the miscreant and his accomplices would be hung[2].

Winter subsequently informed La Trobe of the incident and arranged for his friend, the lawyer Augustine Barton, to come to the Wannon to take evidence against those responsible for the murder. On his way to the Wannon, Barton heard Winter condemned in the roundest terms as a protector of Aboriginals. One of those present suggested that Winter should be lynched for having complained to La Trobe. The case was not proceeded with, due to the inadmissibility of evidence of Aboriginal witnesses. In a memoir published in the *Hamilton Spectator* on 7 March 1874, Winter stated that the chief of the Wandeet tribe lived with him until the Aboriginal's death from influenza in 1843. Winter's dying wish, subsequently ignored, was to be '... buried in the stones (at *Murndal*) where the blacks are buried'[3].

After his brother and new partner George arrived at *Tahara*, Samuel returned to Van Diemen's Land to manage his farm and mill at *Cluan*. George's behaviour as a pioneering squatter reminds one of the worst type of Irish *squireen*. He quarrelled with his neighbours and officials, mistreated his wife, had an unenviable reputation for employing runaway convicts, and was implicated in the murder of five Aboriginals. According to the only published account '... the attack on Mr W occurred after dispute with the Hentys'[4]. In December 1839, Winter and his men fired on a group of Aboriginal people, killing five. George then sought to conceal the incident which was not reported until February 1840 when he informed the magistrate at Geelong on his way to Port Phillip. On learning of the natives' deaths, La Trobe ordered Sievwright, the Assistant Protector of Aborigines, to investigate. When Sievwright's report exonerated Winter, La Trobe directed Robinson, the Chief Protector, to take over the investigation. Robinson reported that Winter was indeed responsible for the deaths of the natives. La Trobe, concerned that no charges had been laid against Winter, advised him:

> I consider it your duty that if you are satisfied these homicides took place and Mr Winter caused these homicides, and not under the circumstances of self defence, that it your duty to commit him to trial[5].

For good measure La Trobe added that, if found guilty, George should be hanged. Robinson apparently lacked sufficient evidence to charge Winter whose men, as hardened ex-convicts and participants in the shootings, were unlikely to incriminate themselves . Testimony of the surviving natives, even when it could be obtained, was rarely sufficient to obtain a conviction.

When Robinson, the Chief Protector, again visited *Tahara* late in 1841, he found it remarkable that, while Winter and his men encouraged the natives at the home and outstation, they had a swivel gun mounted at the home station which was intended ' ... to be used against the blacks if necessary'[6].

Following Samuel Winter's return from overseas, a serious quarrel with George led to the dissolution of the partnership and the division of *Tahara* into two separate stations. George kept the home station *Tahara,* and Samuel the outstation *Spring Valley*. George, who was unsuccessful as a pioneering squatter as well as being estranged from his siblings, permanently departed the colonies in 1849.

In August 1842, Trevor Winter's sheep were attacked by natives and, the following morning, two hundred were reported missing. Later, eighty five were discovered with their hind legs dislocated to prevent them straying. An angry confrontation ensued with the natives thought responsible. They asked Trevor why he was angry with them, as they had not taken his sheep: 'What for you sulky? Sheep no belong you ... me no frighten ... we spear you'[7]. During the course of a second confrontation the same day, Trevor shot and killed a native whom he later alleged had first thrown a spear at him. Winter failed to report the incident to the nearest Police Magistrate, Acheson French, at the Grange (Hamilton), and he was criticised but not charged for not having done so. Foster Fyans, who reported the incident to La Trobe, commented that '... many of the blacks engaged in this outrage had for a long time been domiciled on the station of Messrs. Winter brothers'[8]. Clearly George and Trevor Winter, unlike their absent brother Samuel, had failed to win the trust of Aboriginal people resident on *Tahara*.

It was also the case that by 1842 there had been a sharp rise in the level of hostilities between Europeans and local Aboriginal people. This had to do with spread and intensification of pastoral settlement which made co-habitation between the old and new inhabitants of the land increasingly difficult.

La Trobe's response to reports of the shootings of Aboriginal people provides yet another indication of his humanity and sense of fairness as an administrator. One hopes that his view of the Winter brothers was tempered by the knowledge of Samuel Winter's efforts to ensure that the murderer of local natives was brought to justice. In a sense the behaviour of the Winters on the Wannon reflected the best and the worst of the Irish Ascendancy tradition of which they were a part.

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14 La Trobe to Gipps, 26 November 1840 – Attachment ; see G A Presland, ed. 'Journal of G A Robinson, May-August 1841', in *Records of the Victorian Archaeological Survey,* No. 11, 1980 – entries for 2-4 June 1841, pp. 39-47.
15 James Blair to La Trobe – undated enclosure – referred to in Gipps' Dispatch 1842, pp.585-588.
16 Ibid.

Charles La Trobe, the Hentys and Victoria's South West

By Bernard Wallace

Members of the La Trobe Society were privileged to be able to visit Merino Downs on Saturday 19 November where our hosts were Francis Henty-Anderson and his wife. Well-known historian of south-western Victoria, Bernard Wallace, treated us to a detailed account of this historic property and its owners.

Bernard Wallace was one of La Trobe University's earliest graduates, with a History major. His main interest is the rich history of Victoria's South West, particularly the origins of its placenames. In 2005, he contributed a substantial article to the Victorian Historical Journal entitled 'Naming Victoria's South West'.
Bernard writes a weekly history feature for *Portland Observer* as part of the series, 'Our yesterdays revisited'. He is also a regular contributor to the *Hamilton Spectator* and an occasional contributor to a diverse range of publications. He was a substantial contributor to the *Biographical Dictionary of the Western District*. His most recent publication is *Mary MacKillop's Portland Years – 1862-1866*, published in 2010.

We are certainly at a significant place today; a place with an on-going Henty connection extending over nearly 175 years and a place visited by Charles La Trobe. La Trobe, of course, was Superintendent of the Port Phillip District of New South Wales from October 1839 until 1851 and Separation, whereupon he served as Lieutenant Governor of the newly-established colony of Victoria until May 1854.

The relationship between La Trobe, the Hentys and the Portland Bay District – today's south-west Victoria – was most substantial and extended over much of the fifteen years La Trobe spent in Victoria. Just two weeks after La Trobe arrived in Melbourne, he received a lobbying visitation from Edward and James Henty. They had proceeded with haste from Tasmania via Portland on the family schooner *Eagle*.

The La Trobe-Henty relationship was at its most intense between 1839 and the mid-1840s – when the Henty landholdings at Portland Bay and in the interior were in jeopardy and a settlement of the dispute was being negotiated.

The Portland Bay Settlement and the Portland Bay District loomed large in La Trobe's life. The Portland Bay administrative district included a large part of Victoria, extending north from Portland to a little below Horsham, west to the South Australian border and east to near Geelong. Until the commencement of the Victorian gold rushes in 1851, this part of the Port Phillip District produced much of its wealth. Portland was a significant colonial port and the region's driver of development. Many of the inland pastoralists had mercantile and other enterprises there. Portland's captains of commerce and industry kept La Trobe busy with their demands for development. The demands he was to receive regularly from Portland are exemplified by a feature in the *Portland Mercury* of 10 March 1843. On that occasion, the entrepreneurs of Portland Bay demanded a gaol, a jetty, a Court of Quarter Sessions, a suitable post office, a police office, a coroner, bond store, flagstaff, and that 'His honour to pay quarterly visits to Portland'![1]

The Henty brothers were in the thick of things: politics, innovation, entrepreneurial activity, developing the region's infrastructure and generally advancing the family's best interests. La Trobe, in dealing with the Portland Bay District, also had to work closely with that strong-willed, autocratic foe of the Hentys, Police Magistrate James Blair.

In considering the La Trobe-Henty brothers-Portland Bay District connection, I will briefly explore three themes: the Henty lands issue, La Trobe's relationship with the various Henty brothers, and his official visits to this part of Victoria.

In all of this, we need to remember that La Trobe had to operate within a restrictive framework, limited by all-powerful officials in England, such as the Colonial Secretary of the day, and by a powerful Governor in distant Sydney. For much of the time, this Governor was George Gipps. Gipps, very sensitive to the expectations of his masters in London, above all expected La Trobe to keep the Port Phillip District free of debt and to preserve the peace in all ways.

The Henty lands issue is a long and complex story. It is a story very well told in the 1954 work by Marnie Bassett, *The Hentys*.[2]The very short story is that when La Trobe arrived in Melbourne as Superintendent in October 1839, the diverse Henty landholdings were greatly at risk. The Hentys had no legal title to anything, had illegally established a settlement and enterprises at Portland Bay, and had illegally established pastoral stations in the hinterland. At risk were the Portland landholdings and infrastructure, including houses, warehouses, fencing, a whaling station, gardens and improved and productive lands. There was also the Cape Bridgewater station, Mount Eckersley station and the vast, 100,000 acre Merino Downs station, established back in 1837.

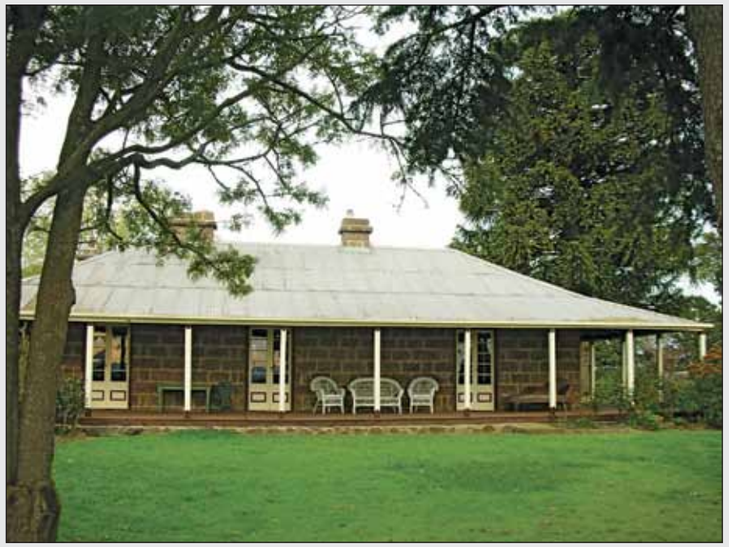
Portland property - wool store
Central to La Trobe's dealing with the Hentys was the status of their vast inland pastoral stations and Portland Bay landholdings, houses, whaling stations, gardens, warehouses – and this wool store. All had been acquired, erected or established without legal basis. From Picturesque Atlas of Australasia, 1888

The authorities were closing in. In 1836, Major Mitchell and his exploration expedition had discovered and reported the Henty presence at Portland. In 1839, Police Magistrate Foster Fyans had briefly brought law and order to the settlement. By mid-1839, Governor Gipps had ordered a survey of the settlement with a view to establishing a proper township and conducting land sales. Indeed, when the survey party arrived, we are told that Eliza Henty, the wife of John Henty, recorded that 'I hear they have taken Stephen's house garden and all the fenced in ground in the heart of where they chose to put the town. My opinion is that the government will take every bit away'.[3] That probably was Gipps' intention. He appears to have had little sympathy for the Hentys.

The Hentys contended that they were entitled to special consideration for several reasons. They had incurred severe and unexpected losses from 1828 onwards, in attempting to establish themselves at the Swan River Colony or Western Australia. Government promises made to settlers failed to materialise. Likewise, they asserted, by the time

Cont. page 30 >>

John Chambers, photographer
Warrayure, 2011



Wes Rogers, photographer
Correagh, 2011

Wes Rogers, photographer
Correagh, 2011

John Botham,
photographer
Kolor, 2011

John Chambers, photographer
Kolor, 2011

John Chambers, photographer
Murndal, 2011

John Chambers, photographer
Murndal, 2011

John Chambers, photographer
Merino Downs, 2011

<< From page 27

they had substantially relocated to Tasmania, the land sale and tenure system had been rapidly and unexpectedly changed by the government, making it very costly to rent or buy land there. So too, they expected concessions from the government in recognition of their pioneering role in what was to become Victoria. They had successfully established permanent settlement and opened up the way for other settlers and for development. The Hentys had also heavily invested in infrastructure at Portland Bay and inland; investment that had contributed to the Port Phillip District's prosperity and viability. As well, they had been given indications by British authorities that their claims had merit and would be seriously considered. Bassett writes at length about such positive indications given in correspondence from Lord Aberdeen to family patriarch, Thomas Henty, in the late 1830s.[4]

Merino postmark on envelope
The settlement of Merino derived its name from nearby Merino Downs, the vast pastoral station established by the Henty brothers in 1837 and visited by Charles La Trobe in 1843.
Collection: Bernard Wallace.

By 1842, the colonial recession forced the Hentys to undertake a major re-structure of their Portland Bay District landholdings and interests. The family partnership was ended. *Merino Downs* run, where we stand today, was reduced to 14,000 acres and passed into the hands of Frank Henty. *Muntham*, and its lesser-quality 60,000 acres went to Edward. John became the master of the 12,000 acre *Sandford* station; high-quality land but undeveloped. Stephen remained at Portland Bay, focusing on a range of enterprises and smaller landholdings. James, Charles and William, whilst strongly supporting the mainland bothers and their land claims, remained in Tasmania.

The Henty land claims went back and forth between Melbourne, Sydney and London and return! Gradually, the tide turned in favour of the Henty family. From 1842 onwards, there had been a softening of the British Government's stance. The Hentys had sympathetic friends with influence in England and the Colonial Secretary of the day wanted the vexatious matter to come to an end. Gipps was under pressure to come to achieve a settlement. In the end, a deal was arrived at; the Hentys could remain on their inland stations but at a cost. They also received partial compensation for the forfeited Portland landholdings, as well as other concessions. It was not what they had hoped for, but much more than they might realistically have expected.

La Trobe's role in the Henty land saga had been substantial and ongoing. He had handled the matter with a light touch. However, although unfailingly polite and courteous in his dealing with the Hentys, he was no passive pawn in the saga. Although somewhat sympathetic to the Hentys, feeling their case had much merit, he was not unduly influenced or intimidated by the brothers and their energetic representations and tactics. He used his powers where appropriate and, where necessary, unleashed that zealous representative of the crown in Portland, Police Magistrate James Blair. At one time or another, La Trobe had to firmly chastise at least three of the brothers Henty. Be this as it may, he observed that the final settlement was 'just and reasonable'[5].

The second theme I will explore today is that of Charles La Trobe and his relationship with the Henty brothers. By 1842, Marnie Bassett wrote in *The Hentys*, 'The Superintendent had come to the conclusion that there were too many Hentys and that they wrote too many letters[6].' He had a real tag team lined up against him. Sometimes the brothers were representing the family interest; sometimes self-interest. There were seven brothers. I'll make some brief observations about each of them and their dealings with La Trobe.

James, in company with Edward, met La Trobe at Melbourne in 1839 shortly after the Superintendent had commenced in the role. Thereafter, James, a minor player in the Henty

La Trobe on postage stamp
Superintendent, later Lieutenant Governor Charles La Trobe, undertook official visits to Victoria's far south-west on some seven occasions between 1841 and 1850.
This stamp was issued by the predecessor organisation of Australia Post to commemorate the centenary of the establishment of Victoria.
Collection: Bernard Wallace

team, had few dealings with La Trobe. Although James visited Portland Bay on several occasions, he focused his attention on his Launceston merchant activities.

Charles apparently had few if any direct dealings with La Trobe. Although he visited Portland Bay on several occasions, he appears to have confined his attentions to his banking enterprise.

William, the lawyer, was the Henty family's key advocate. He relentlessly and effectively negotiated the Henty case with Sydney-based Governor Gipps and the British authorities. Be that as it may, he never visited Portland Bay! His dealings with La Trobe were by way of written correspondence and were invariably cordial and proper. He later became Attorney General of the Colony of Tasmania.

John, the black sheep of the family, attracted La Trobe's ire in 1841 by way of a property boundary dispute. Crown Lands Commissioner Foster Fyans arbitrated the dispute, to John's disadvantage. John wrote an insulting letter to Fyans, who forwarded the offending missive to La Trobe. La Trobe sternly rebuked John, reminding him of his uncertain status in regard to the lands he occupied. When his brother Edward clumsily weighed into the dispute, La Trobe treated him to a similar written lecture.

Francis Henty, the master of Merino Downs where we stand today, initially preferred the pleasures of the Portland Bay Settlement to the rigours of the inland. Frank fell foul of La Trobe in 1842, when he misrepresented him in an exchange with Police Magistrate James Blair regarding permission to remain on a forfeited Portland property until it was sold. La Trobe issued a stern written rebuke. The phrase 'exceeding improper' was included in the correspondence[7]. However, all seems to have been forgotten or forgiven by the official visit of 1843, when La Trobe and his party were accommodated at *Merino Downs*.

Edward Henty, eventually the master of nearby *Muntham,* was the Henty who made many claims about being the founder and pioneer of Victoria. He, in company with James, met La Trobe in October 1839, when the Hentys first put their case forward. Edward and La Trobe were two contrasting personalities with little in common. Edward was the Henty who most vexed La Trobe. He was compelled to take Edward to task on numerous occasions, especially regarding extravagant claims on behalf of the family – or himself.

Stephen, the enduring Henty presence in Portland, was an entrepreneur, innovator, captain of commerce and industry, and later pastoralist of the inland. He first met La Trobe in 1841, at Portland on the Superintendent's first visit to the region. They had much in common and were both equable and well-mannered men. It was often a case of Edward damaging the La Trobe-Henty family relationship and Stephen then repairing it. Stephen was, nevertheless, a strong and consistent advocate of the Henty family interests

Their relationship remained cordial, right through until La Trobe's departure for England in 1854. At that time, in his contribution to what became *Letters from Victorian Pioneers*, Stephen wrote 'I cannot…forget the pleasant rides that I have had the honour of accompanying you on, on several occasions over a great deal of… the country', a reference to the Wannon and the Glenelg[8].Then, a true Henty, Stephen proceeded to lobby La Trobe regarding a magisterial appointment in the Portland Bay District.

The third and final theme that I will deal with today is that of La Trobe's official visits to the Portland Bay District, including a sojourn to *Merino Downs* station. He visited the Portland Bay District on some seven occasions between 1841 and 1850. I note that the itinerary for your visit, in reference to Merino Downs, mentions that 'La Trobe stayed here on one of his rides.' These 'rides' were far from pleasant excursions in the countryside; they were generally lengthy and challenging expeditions.

It was fortunate that La Trobe was an ardent and accomplished horseman. During his time as Superintendent, he undertook nearly 100 journeys across the length and breadth of the Port Phillip District on horseback. The aim of these expeditions was to familiarise himself with the colony and its colonists, to better understand and deal with problems, to investigate certain

matters, to ensure the peace was kept and to promote the orderly and economical development the Port Phillip District.

Nevertheless, he clearly enjoyed getting out and about in the colony. Alan Gross, in his pioneering biography of La Trobe, noted that 'what was equally predictable, to those who knew the man, was that La Trobe would seize the opportunity for a tour'[9]. Indeed, the journeys also served to satisfy his great sense of curiosity. There was very little that did not take his interest, including the history, natural history, geography and general state of the colony. An accomplished artist, he also sketched as he went, later turning these sketches into charming and informative watercolours.

La Trobe's journeys were lengthy; usually of two weeks duration. He was in the saddle most days. One of his letters written en-route to Portland Bay in 1848 states: 'I came in 70 miles today'[10]! Several years later, in February 1849, when riding to Portland from Warrnambool at the height of summer, he wore out one of his companions, Captain Henry Dana, leader of the Mounted Native Police. Dana was 29 years of age. A letter written from Portland by La Trobe records that he departed Port Fairy, 'leaving Dana, who really wanted rest, pushed on… reaching Portland by 11am and was on horseback at one time or another for rest of day'[11].

His accommodation was generally rough and ready, often with adversarial squatters and sometimes under the stars or at primitive bush inns. The diet on these expeditions was also rather indifferent! He invariably travelled with a small party, routinely contending with a range of dangers including flood, fire, becoming lost and encounters with potentially-hostile Aboriginal people.

La Trobe undertook some seven expeditions to the South West. The first was a two-week undertaking in May 1841. This Melbourne to Portland and return expedition was a major, pioneering undertaking, with La Trobe later writing of a 'dark ride in the forest' and of 'abominable roads and stumbling horses'[12]. At Portland, he met pioneer Stephen Henty for the first time and was accommodated by him. No doubt the future of the Henty family's landholdings at Portland Bay and in the interior was discussed at length. At this time, nearby Hamilton was a very sparsely settled locality generally known as The Grange.

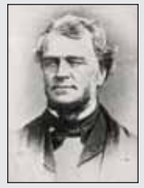
In 1843, between 27 February and 11 March, La Trobe made his way from Melbourne to Portland by way of Port Fairy and returned to Melbourne through Mount Rouse and the Grampians.

La Trobes's April-May 1844 expedition proceeded from Melbourne to Portland by way of Geelong, Colac, Warrnambool and Port Fairy. From Portland, his party made its way to Mount Gambier and then to the Wannon. He overnighted at Frank Henty's station, Merino Downs, recording that he received an 'excellent reception and excellent wine'[13]. La Trobe's party returned to Melbourne by way of the Grange, Mount Rouse and Mount Elephant.

In May 1845, La Trobe again visited Portland, in company with Captain Dana. La Trobe's May 1848 expedition to Portland Bay was via the Pyrenees, over the Grampians through Rose's Gap, thence to the Upper Wimmera and the Glenelg, where he wrote a letter dated 16 March to his wife. The address he gave was 'Mr. Blair's Portland Bay'. In it he wrote: 'We reached the Glenelg near Mr. Blair's station last night, the junction of the Wando & Glenelg'[14]. Mr Blair was, of course, the formidable Police Magistrate James Blair and the station was *Clunie*. From *Clunie*, La Trobe and his party made their way down to the Grange and thence to Portland. At Portland, the possibility of sending emigrants directly from England to Portland Bay was high on the agenda. La Trobe returned to Melbourne through Port Fairy and Warrnambool.

Edward Henty, the self-proclaimed founder of Victoria, was the Henty who most vexed La Trobe. They were two contrasting personalities with little in common.
Source: Bassett, Marnie. The Hentys: An Australian Tapestry. London: MUP 1954. Illus. No 47

Frank Henty, the master of Merino Downs. He fell foul of La Trobe in 1842, but all seems to have been forgotten or forgiven by the official visit of 1843, when La Trobe and his party were graciously accommodated at Merino Downs.
Source: Portland Observer 1934 Centenary souvenir supplement.



William Henty was the family's key advocate – and the only Henty never to have visited Portland Bay. He later became Attorney General of the Colony of Tasmania.
Source: Bassett, Marnie. The Hentys: An Australian Tapestry. London: MUP 1954. Illus. No 47

John Henty. He was sternly rebuked by La Trobe in 1841, over a pastoral boundary dispute.
From Portland Observer 1934 Centenary souvenir supplement.

Stephen Henty had much in common with La Trobe; they were both equable and well-mannered men. Stephen was, nevertheless, a strong and consistent advocate of the Henty family interests.
Source: Portland Observer 1934 Centenary souvenir supplement.

His last major visit to this part of the colony was in 1849. Between 20 January and 5 February, La Trobe, with Dana and his Native Police, made his way to Portland by way of Geelong, Cape Otway, Warrnambool and Port Fairy.

In 1850, La Trobe made his way westward by way of the Pyrenees and the foothills of the Grampians. On 12 March, he wrote a letter from 'The Inn. Mount Sturgeon'. Mount Sturgeon was to be renamed Dunkeld in 1854. He had spent some time at Mount Rouse, now Penshurst. Whilst at Dunkeld he sketched Mount Sturgeon, Mount Abrupt and a pastoralist's house in Victoria Valley. Then, he wrote: 'We now propose going up the Victoria and Grampians Ranges & crossing over by one of the Gaps – Hall's or Rose's – to the east side of the former & then to the Pyrenees'[15].

The Gold Rushes to a great extent brought La Trobes's expeditions to an end. Henceforth, he was very much confined to Melbourne, striving to solve the myriad problems created by the Gold Rushes.

In moving to a conclusion, I note that there is another link between Charles La Trobe and this part of Victoria. There is considerable evidence to suggest that he played a key role in expediting the survey of the Grange township and it being renamed Hamilton in 1851[16].

Separation and the Gold Rushes not only brought his adventurous expeditions to an end; they also meant that he had greater concerns than the brothers Henty, Portland and the Portland Bay District.

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1 *Portland Mercury*, 10 March 1843
2 Marnie Bassett, *The Hentys*, Melbourne, Oxford University Press, 1954.
3 J.G. Wiltshire, *Twenty Four Years In An Hour-Glass*, E. Davis & Sons, Portland, 1980, p. 10.
4 Bassett, pp. 328-29.
5 Ibid. p. 525.
6 Ibid. p. 492.
7 Ibid., p. 492.
8 Cited in T.F Bride (ed.) *Letters from Victorian Pioneers*, Melbourne, Lloyd O'Neil, 1983, p. 121.
9 Alan Gross, *Charles Joseph La Trobe*, Melbourne, Melbourne University Press, 1956, p. 36.
10 Cited in L.J. Blake (ed.) *Letters of Charles Joseph La Trobe*, Melbourne, Government Printer, 1975, p. 30.
11 Blake, p. 34.
12 Bassett, p. 483.
13 Ibid. p. 535.
14 Blake, p. 30.
15 Ibid. p. 39.
16 Don Garden, *Hamilton: A Western District History*, Melbourne, Hargreen, 1984, pp. 36–38.

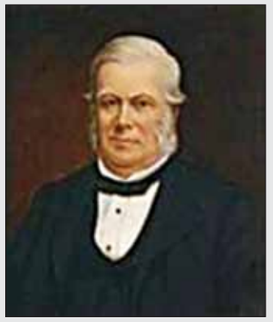
Warrayure and Mount Sturgeon Plains

We were very fortunate to be invited to Warrayure as the last stage of the Society's Western District tour since, even though the house was not built during La Trobe's administration of Victoria, it was in fact commissioned by his friend Stephen Henty. Scott McIntyre, the current owner, and his fiancée, Lisa Waters, welcomed us to the property, and Scott gave an excellent summary of the history of the house and pastoral holdings. This is described in Heritage Victoria's Victorian Heritage Database:

The *Warrayure* Homestead Complex, halfway between Hamilton and Dunkeld, was established from 1860 by Stephen Henty, a member of the famous early pioneering family, the first Overstraiters. Henty lived at *Warrayure* until his financial collapse in 1871, the year before he died, when the property was sold to the Cameron family, amongst the first Overlanders. It stayed in their hands until 1891.

Henty commissioned the recently arrived Scottish architect, John Shanks Jenkins, to build the fine house which is not without interest in its planning, details and siting. It appears to have been set in an extensive landscape garden, now largely lost. Importantly, there is an extensive range of outbuildings around the rear courtyard, and a shearer's cottage and a large woolshed some distance from the house, all probably designed by Jenkins. These, with the house, are substantially intact and, apart from the decoration of the interiors of the house, retaining a high degree of integrity. The structures are variously in fair, good and excellent condition.

The *Warrayure* Homestead complex is of historical and architectural significance to the State of Victoria and to the Southern Grampians Shire. It is of historical significance for its interconnections with the great families, the Hentys and the Camerons, the former Overstraiters and the latter Overlanders, thereby representing the two major pioneering



Edward A'Beckett, 1844-1932, artist
Francis Henty, 1844-1889, c. 1890
Oil on canvas
La Trobe Picture Collection, State Library of Victoria, H24630

thrusts into Australia Felix. More specifically, it represents the declining fortunes of the former and the rising fortunes of the latter. *Warrayure* is of architectural significance for its association with the architect and engineer, John Shanks Jenkins, who was particularly important in the Western District until his move to Melbourne where he continued to prosper professionally and personally.

Warrayure is perhaps unique in Victoria for its interconnection with two great pioneering families who took advantage of the discovery by Major Thomas Mitchell of the country which he called 'Australia Felix' and which is now known as the Western District. *Warrayure* was formerly part of the squatting run *Mount Sturgeon Plains* which had been taken up by the Cameron family, Scottish Overlanders who arrived in Sydney as early as 1839[1]. By 1857, it had been subdivided into *Mount Sturgeon Plains North* and *South*. Stephen George Henty took up *Mount Sturgeon Plains North* in May 1860 and *Mount Sturgeon Plains South* in 1863. This brought together both parts of the original *Mount Sturgeon Plains*.

He renamed the property *Warrayure* to prevent confusion between *Mt Sturgeon Estate* and *Mt Sturgeon Plains*. Henty had already purchased land in the first Hamilton Town sales and land at Tarrington before he purchased *Mt Sturgeon Plains*. He built a four room stone cottage at Tarrington, which was later developed into *Tarrington House*, and he may have lived there before living at *Warrayure*.

Stephen Henty was one of the original Henty family from Tarring, Sussex . The family migrated to Western Australia, then went to Van Diemen's Land and finally arrived in Portland in 1834. Taking advantage of information about the hinterland from Major Mitchell, they were able to establish the key squatting runs of *Merino Downs*, *Muntham* and *Sandford* along the Glenelg and Wannon valleys.

As soon as he had purchased *Mount Sturgeon Plains North*, Stephen Henty began to build a new homestead. He appointed John Shanks Jenkins (1834-1913) as his architect in 1860. Bluestone was quarried on the property and freestone for the windows and other details came from the Grampians. Most of the work was done by local craftsmen.

Based in Hamilton, Jenkins had a mixed and extensive practice with important clients. The commission to design *Warrayure* (Victorian Period Italianate) must have been an important step in his career. Jenkins, who described himself as a civil engineer as much as an architect, was born in Elgin, Scotland in 1834 [where] he served his apprenticeship with Messrs. McKenzie and Matthews, of Aberdeen and Elgin, architects, and arrived in Melbourne in 1854[2]. In 1858 he became town surveyor of Port Fairy, went to Hamilton in a similar capacity in 1860, to Mount Rouse as shire engineer in 1870, and to Richmond as town surveyor in 1876 where he was also a councillor for five years[3]. Jenkins died in Richmond in 1913, aged 78[4]. As well as winning first prize with Charles D'Ebro and John Grainger (father of Percy Grainger) for the present Princes Bridge, Melbourne, Jenkins was proud to be one of the pioneers of the eight hours' movement in 1856.

Robert Stapylton Bree (1839-1907) came to Victoria from Cornwall in 1865 and soon after his arrival took charge of *Warrayure* for Stephen Henty, remaining for six years. In 1871 he married Henty's daughter Annie, and when Henty sold up in 1872, Bree moved into Hamilton and purchased the auctioneering business of J. A. Learmonth[5]. .At the end of 1871 Stephen Henty's financial position was grave. He died on the 18th December 1872[6]. The historian Don Garden notes that both Stephen Henty and, after his death, his son and heir Richmond Henty (1837-1904), ran into serious financial difficulties. Richmond eventually lost

all his father's properties, and *Warrayure* was acquired by Alexander Cameron (c.1808-81).

After his father's death in 1881, John Joseph Cameron purchased *Warrayure*. He was born in 1850 in South Australia, where his father owned the *Penola Station* from 1842 to 1863 before purchasing four runs in Victoria. Alexander Cameron came to be one of the largest landholders in the future Western District and one of the most successful Overlanders. At one stage it was proposed to subdivide *Warrayure* into small farms but the condition of the 11,700 acres of open undulating plains country was not as glowing as it had been 14 years before:

> The absence of shelter is a great draw back, as there is in the whole estate less than 400 acres of open foremost country, and protection from the bleak winter winds is yearly making its necessity more apparent. With a view to supplying this manifest requirement, tree planting has been commenced on systematic lines. Up to date about twelve hundred young pines and blue gums have been planted in rows and clumps, the latter plan being decidedly preferable, as the trees protect each other. The seedlings are obtained from Melbourne in boxes, and this is the most economical manner next to rearing them at home, that can be adopted[7].

The same article give a detailed and frank description of the homestead some 25 years after it was built and the garden established:

> The homestead is approached by a gravelled drive, quite half a mile in length, planted with rows of pines, that are doing fairly well. It is substantially constructed of bluestone, providing ample accommodation for a large family. The garden and orchard comprise an area of about two acres and a half, stocked with vines and fruit trees. The vines are thoroughly healthy, and yield abundantly... The fruits that appear to suit the locality best are pears, apples, figs and quinces, the blight having affected the peaches to such an extent as to render them worthless. In the garden and conservatory, which are nicely kept, there are some splendid dahlias, camellias, ferns and other choice plants that evidently are carefully attended to. In the absence of a local supply of water, the requirements of this portion of the establishment are furnished by means of a portable tank which, though rather slow is a capital substitute[8]...

By the late 1880s, John Cameron was a member of the Western District Sheep Farmers Association. In its 1888 notice to shearers at the height of the tension between the shearing union and the pastoralists, *Warrayure* is noted as having 13,000 sheep to shear and the rate offered was 14 shillings per hundred, amongst the highest and only beaten by the Winter-Cooks at *Murndal* who were offering 15 shillings. John Cameron sold *Warrayure* in 1892 and retired to live at *Lynwood* in Hamilton.

The McIntyre family have occupied *Warrayure,* where they run sheep and cattle, since the early 1980s. We were very privileged to have a special glimpse of its history.

1 RV Billis and AS Kenyon, *Pastoral Pioneers of Port Phillip,* Melbourne, Stockland Press, 1974, p. 254
2 Sutherland,*Victoria and its Metropolis,* vol.2, Melbourne, p. 521
3 op. cit.
4 EIV, Reg. No. 3413
5 Don Garden,Hamilton, a Western District history, Hargreen, 1984, p. 72
6 (PIV, Reg. No. 9373).
7 (WA, 20/3/1886, 12)
8 op. cit.

Reference

Victorian Heritage Database, quoted with permission from Heritage Victoria.

Edward La Trobe Bateman and Kolor

By Helen Botham

Helen Botham is a freelance researcher, specialising in garden history. She acted as researcher and contributor to the Oxford Companion to Australian Gardens, edited by Richard Aitken and Michael Looker, Melbourne, Oxford University Press, 2002. Helen is the author of *La Trobe's Jolimont: A walk round my garden*. Melbourne, La Trobe Society and Australian Garden History Society, 2006. She is a member of the La Trobe Society and the Australian Garden History Society, and was foundation chair of the Friends of La Trobe's Cottage.

We, members of the La Trobe Society and the Friends of La Trobe's Cottage, best know Edward La Trobe Bateman as the artist of the set of 22 drawings of La Trobe's Jolimont Estate. These provide a detailed record of the significant and beautiful garden estate which Charles Joseph La Trobe developed at Jolimont. But at Kolor we had an opportunity to learn about the significant career in landscape architecture and design, which followed Edward La Trobe Bateman's early Melbourne career subsequent to his arrival in 1852.

Edward La Trobe Bateman

Book illuminator, draughtsman, architectural decorator and garden designer[1], Edward La Trobe Bateman was born in 1816 in Yorkshire, the son of La Trobe's father's sister, Mary, and her husband, John Frederick Bateman; so Edward La Trobe Bateman was Charles Joseph La Trobe's first cousin. Before departing England for Australia, he had established a reputation as a fine botanical artist and 'illuminator'[2], and he was close friends with the members of the Pre-Raphaelite Brotherhood, notable members being John Millais and Dante Gabriel Rosetti. He came to Australia directly after assisting the influential design reformer Owen Jones who was employed as one of the Superintendents of Works for the Great Exhibition of London in 1851. Under Jones, who was responsible for decoration of the interior structure of the Crystal Palace, Bateman arranged and decorated the Fine Arts Court.

He travelled to Australia in 1852 with two other Pre-Raphaelites – sculptor Thomas Woolner, and painter and sculptor Bernhard Smith. On arriving in Melbourne he stayed at

his cousin's Jolimont estate, and his friends the Howitts supported him by arranging commissions for him. He drew a series of illustrations, similar to the Jolimont series, for the Bakewells at Plenty.

In the years following La Trobe's departure from Melbourne in 1854, Bateman designed many public and private Melbourne gardens, including the garden plan of the University of Melbourne, with a beautiful System (or Botanic) Garden at the School of Botany, the Fitzroy Gardens, Williamstown Botanic Gardens and Carlton Gardens. The designs for these public parks, '…with their sinuous curves, have a distinctive Continental flavour.'[3] After this time, the significant and long-term partnership between Edward La Trobe Bateman and Joseph Reed, the leading Melbourne architect of the day, commenced – a professional association which continued through the 1860s. It is acknowledged that Bateman designed the original garden at *Rippon Lea*, one of many Melbourne buildings by Reed & Barnes, architects. It is thought that Bateman designed not only the garden, but also the house, at *Barragunda,* Cape Schanck, and *Heronswood* at Dromana. We noticed, as we entered *Kolor*, that it is very reminiscent of *Heronswood*.

While these projects were being developed during the 1860s, he was also busy in the Western District. This was, as we became so aware during the tour, the time of the establishment of the great Western District properties, many of them featuring large homesteads and beautiful garden estates. And it seems that Bateman was the most significant landscape designer associated with these garden estates in the mid to late 1860s. Timothy Hubbard, whose thesis discusses Bateman's role in the development of these estates, says that Bateman is important because '…he combines the professions of artist, architect and landscape designer'[4]. Bateman accompanied von Guerard on some of his sketching trips, and he may have had a role in designing the garden at *Meningoort*[5]. He spent three years working on the design of the garden at *Chatsworth*, not far from *Kolor*.

And Dr Hubbard says there is no doubt about Bateman's involvement in two villa designs in the Western District: he was involved not only in the garden design, but also the villa, at nearby *Wooriwyrite* – a copy of his beautiful detailed plan is held at the State Library of Victoria – and *Kolor*, one of the best examples of the Picturesque in the Western District[6].

E. La Trobe Bateman
Picture Collection, State Library of Victoria
Photographer unknown

Kolor, Penshurst

We were told, in the information provided prior to the tour, that the land here was taken up by John Cox as part of the Mount Rouse Run, but it was subsequently acquired, in 1842, for an Aboriginal Protectorate. It would have been during this time that La Trobe visited – Dianne Reilly and historian Bernard Wallace have told us that he visited Mt Rouse in 1843. And we read, in the commemorative menu compiled by Heather Heard and Cassie Rogers for our dinner at the Hamilton Club, a letter written by La Trobe to Sophie from Mt Sturgeon on 12 March 1850, stating that '…I staid 2 or 3 hours at Mt Rouse…'[7]. So we know that La Trobe stood here at Mt Rouse on at least two occasions.

La Trobe's 1850 visit would have been not long before the protectorate failed in 1851. The lease was subsequently taken up by the Port Phillip Pioneer John Joseph Twomey; and the homestead was built for him and his son Daniel in 1868. The design of the house is another collaboration between La Trobe Bateman and Reed & Barnes[8]. Although Anne Neale reminds us that there is no mention of Bateman in the diary of the Clerk of Works overseeing the construction of the house and garden[9] (a copy of this diary was available for perusal at *Kolor*), she says the garden and the interior decoration are the two areas in which Bateman would have been involved. And Timothy Hubbard says Bateman's influence is revealed not only in the planning of the house and garden which includes all his usual devices, but also in the general Romanticism of the villa and its landscape[10]. So, Drs Hubbard and Neale believe that Bateman was involved not only in the garden but also the villa. He saw the design of the villa and garden as an integrated whole, in sympathy with the surrounding natural landscape.

Dr Hubbard points out that at *Kolor*, Bateman's hallmark large geometric shapes are clear: there is an enormous circle ringed by Hawthorn hedges at the rear of the house, coinciding with a cinder cone from the mount[11]. We saw this feature near where we parked our cars – there are still a large number of Bateman's Hawthorns marking the rim of the cone, and the ancient Stone Pines remain in the centre. He had used a large circular bed surrounded by a dense hedge in his famous design for the System (or Botanic) garden at the School of Botany, University of Melbourne, and at *Barragunda*.[12] We also noticed Stone Pines on either side of the *Kolor* entrance gates.

The house stands directly to the south of Mt Sturgeon, and directly east of Mt Napier. Bateman incorporated views of these features into his design. The beautiful bow window of the drawing room looks directly toward Mt Napier and the dining room's bay window would have provided a magnificent view, before it was obscured by the trees, of Mt Sturgeon. A curved drive climbs towards the house.

It was while working for John Moffat at *Chatsworth* in 1867 that a buggy accident permanently incapacitated Bateman's right arm. The case for damages was given in his favour by the Supreme Court here, but this was overturned by the Privy Council in England[13]. He returned to England in 1869 to defend his case, but he was unsuccessful. We can surmise that he would have visited La Trobe at this time, who was by then living in Sussex. Bateman was never to return to Victoria – he lived on the Isle of Bute in Scotland, where he continued, for the rest of his life, to design gardens.

Wherever he went, he left friends who 'did not forget his gentle but determined ways'[14]. Caroline Clemente, a La Trobe Society member, writes that Edith Anderson described '… a loyal and affectionate friend, a gentle, whimsical and lovable if moody man whose whole outlook was shaped by aesthetic concerns.'[15] Such concerns we know were of interest also to Charles Joseph La Trobe, whose trips to this area gave him the opportunity to appreciate, and wonder at, the sublime beauties of nature.

Anne Neale says: 'In his art and design La Trobe Bateman shed light upon the exquisite beauties of Nature' with '… his exceptional capacity to illuminate Nature for the benefit of others'[16]. He died at his home on Bute in 1897, in an 'ivy-draped cottage … surrounded by most delightful scenery … the perfection of a neat Scottish homestead'[17].

I very much appreciated the opportunity to talk about Edward La Trobe Bateman during our privileged visit to this beautiful property.

1 Daniel Thomas, 'Bateman, Edward La Trobe (1815–1897)', *Australian Dictionary of Biography*, National Centre of Biography, Australian National University, http://adb.anu.edu.au/biography/bateman-edward-la-trobe-2951/text4285, accessed 14 November 2011.

2 Anne Neale in Richard Aitken & Michael Looker, eds. *Oxford Companion to Australian Gardens*, South Melbourne, Vic., Oxford University Press, 2002, p76.

3 Ibid., p78.

4 Timothy Hubbard *Towering Over All The Italianate Villa in the Colonial Landscape*, PhD Thesis, Deakin University, 2003, p236.

5 Ibid., p246.

6 Ibid., p236.

7 L.J.Blake, ed., *Letters of Charles Joseph La Trobe,* Melbourne, Government of Victoria, 1975, p.39.

8 Hubbard op.cit ., p242.

9 Anne Neale, 'Illuminating Nature The art and design of E L Bateman [1816-1897]', PhD thesis, The University of Melbourne, 2001, p156.

10 Hubbard, op.cit., p242

11 Ibid.

12 Ibid., p 238.

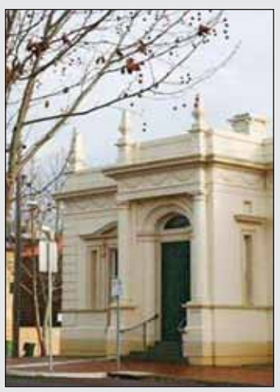
13 E.T.A., 'Edward La Trobe Bateman. An Interesting Old-time Personality', *The Age*, Feb 13 1932.

14 Ibid.

15 Caroline Clemente: 'Artists in Society: A Melbourne Circle, 1850s-1860s', *Art Bulletin of Victoria*, No 30, 1989.

16 Anne Neale, op cit., Abstract .

17 W.R Guilfoyle, 'Tourist Notes on the Picturesque in Gardens, Parks and Forests', *Bankers Magazine of Australasia*, August 15 1898.



Hamilton Club.
Courtesy Peter Small,
Hamilton Club, President.

The Hamilton Club Welcome

By Peter Small

Peter Small, President, welcomed La Trobe Society members and guests to the Hamilton Club, the venue for the formal dinner of the Western District tour. He gave a short historical introduction to the Club which was formed on 7 December 1875 at a meeting at Pilven's Hotel, now the Commercial Hotel, in Hamilton.

A driving force behind the formation of the Club was the first Secretary, Alfred Tennyson Dickens, the fourth son of the renowned nineteenth century novelist Charles Dickens. Today one of the features of the Club is its Alfred Tennyson Dickens Library, which focuses primarily on collecting material relating to Victorian and pastoral history.

Work on the new clubhouse, with its Doric façade, situated at the corner of Gray and Kennedy Streets, commenced on 13 January 1879 and was opened for the first time on 26 July of that same year. Founded by and for Hamilton business people and Western Victorian professionals and graziers, the Club has witnessed wars, depressions, droughts and various forms of rural booms and recessions.

The Club continues to evolve and adapt to the social mores of the times. Membership was opened to women in 1997, and associate membership was introduced in 2000. The Hamilton Club, extended and renovated in late 2011, continues as it began as an active and resourceful centre for networking and social activities for its members.

Charles La Trobe in the Western District of Victoria

Address given by Dianne Reilly at the Tour Dinner held at the Hamilton Club on Saturday 19 November 2011

As the newly appointed administrator of an outreach of New South Wales, Charles Joseph La Trobe arrived in Melbourne on 3 October 1839 as Superintendent of the Port Phillip District of New South Wales. He had come to a relatively little-known but valuable outpost of the British Empire which, he was soon to discover, had much to offer. However, there were also many challenges which confronted him to the end of his term of office. When he arrived, Port Phillip had been declared out of bounds to expansion, since it was official Colonial Office policy and his responsibility to contain settlement as much as possible. However, by the 1840s, Victoria was becoming a prosperous pastoral community as squatters extended their grazing runs. The population rose rapidly as migrants arrived from Britain and more settlers crossed from Van Diemen's Land or drove their flocks and herds south from New South Wales. By 1850, Victoria had 76,000 people and 6,000,000 sheep, and Melbourne, Geelong and Portland were its main urban centres.

In some ways, La Trobe was just the man for the job as administrator of this fledgling colony. He was a man of education and culture, of upright character with the reputation for caution, who would act always in the interests of the territory under his administration, and who would set a standard of civilized life in a remote part of the British Empire. As it turned out, he was a man of vision for the colony placed under his care in its formative years.

In the course of his employment as a young man in Switzerland, La Trobe had been diverted by the outdoor life. He became a pioneer alpinist and was noted for his skill as a mountaineer. He climbed peaks and later wrote about them in his first book *The Alpenstock*, published in 1829 for a readership in England which would never emulate him but only marvel at his feats.

So talented a sportsman was he, and so great his love of nature, that he climbed previously unconquered mountains and crossed untraversed passes without the help of guides or porters. His climbs without companions were not entirely due to his love of being alone, although he had 'no objection to solitude'. He was attracted by adventure and had the curiosity of the explorer. This foreshadowed many 'rides' in Port Phillip where, again, he was an explorer in another country.

On his lone 'grand tour' to parts of Italy, he rhapsodised in his descriptions of the beauties he encountered for the benefit of the readers of his second book 'The Pedestrian'. The glories of Venice he so eloquently described could easily complement the works of Canaletto.

La Trobe also explored much of the New World on an extended tour from 1832 to 1835 in North America and Mexico with his former Swiss student Comte Albert de Pourtalès. La Trobe was always attracted to any mountain range he saw, and he climbed Mt Washington (1917m) among other peaks

Charles Joseph La Trobe, 1801-1875, artist
Outline of Mt William from Shepherd's, March 1848
Ink and pencil
Collection: National Trust of Australia (Victoria).
Deposited on long-term loan in the La Trobe Picture Collection, State Library of Victoria

Charles Joseph La Trobe, 1801-1875, artist
On the summit of Mt William. The Grampians, Nov. 1844
Pencil and sepia wash
Collection: National Trust of Australia (Victoria).
Deposited on long-term loan in the La Trobe Picture Collection, State Library of Victoria

in the White Mountains of New Hampshire. The two adventurers joined the great American writer Washington Irving and Judge Ellsworth, President Jackson's Commissioner for the Indians, on a Western Tour from St Louis through northern Missouri to Independence, then south to Kansas and Oklahoma. La Trobe was present at the very commencement of the settlement of the Indian territory which was later named Oklahoma.

La Trobe no doubt reflected on these experiences, and his earlier work for the education of newly released slaves in the British West Indies when he was later called upon to manage humanely the Colonial Office policy of assimilation for the Aboriginal people of Port Phillip, a task which defeated him.

European exploration and limited settlement in the southern part of Australia was begun by groups of pastoral pioneers who crossed Bass Strait from Van Diemen's Land in the 1830s in search of fertile grazing land. In November 1834 the Henty family landed stock and supplies at Portland, and in 1835 John Batman arrived in Port Phillip Bay, as did John Pascoe Fawkner, to establish a colony on the banks of the Yarra River.

Exploration by sea and land had preceded European settlement, from the first recorded sighting at Port Hicks in 1770 by Captain Cook, other explorers including George Bass (1798), James Grant (1801–02), John Murray (1802), and Matthew Flinders (1802) who explored and charted Victorian waters and penetrated Western Port, Portland, and Port Phillip bays. In the 1820s and '30s, overland expeditions from New South Wales opened up the hinterland. Hamilton Hume and William Hovell struck south and reached the coast of Port Phillip in 1824; Charles Sturt charted the full length of the Murray in 1829; Major Thomas Livingstone Mitchell, the Scottish born Surveyor-General of New South Wales, crossed the central and western plains in 1836, mapping what is now western Victoria; and several parties had penetrated the mountainous Gippsland district by 1840. In December 1836 Captain William Lonsdale was appointed first resident magistrate.

He was joined in 1839 by Charles Joseph La Trobe, a virtually untried and inexperienced civil servant, who was subordinate, primarily to the Governor in Sydney, Sir George Gipps, and ultimately to the Colonial Office in London. He remained as Superintendent until 1 July 1851 when separation of the Port Phillip District as a distinct colony was proclaimed and he was declared Lieutenant Governor of Victoria. La Trobe held this post until his departure in May 1854.

Major Mitchell had mapped the western area of Victoria and named the Grampian Mountains. It was the middle of winter when he reached the area, and the peaks were frozen just as the Grampians were in the Scottish Highlands. Across the mountains, Mitchell found excellent grazing land – land far richer than any he had found in New South Wales, and he named this part of the country 'Australia Felix'. He and his party camped on the spot where *Correagh* stands today. Travelling south-west on an expedition from Sydney in 1835, he and his party crossed mountains and rivers that no white man had ever seen. They came to the Glenelg River and, after rowing down it, reached the sea at Portland Bay in August 1836. Mitchell was surprised to meet here, Edward and Francis Henty, who had settled near the harbour in 1834. He was amazed to find a small but prosperous community complete with stock, potato paddocks, roads and a ship, *The Thistle*, at anchor in the bay. The Hentys established themselves and prospered, raising sheep and cattle and hunting whales.

Charles Joseph La Trobe, 1801-1875, artist
Mt William, Bunbury's Station, 19 Nov. 1844
Ink and sepia wash on paper
Collection: National Trust of Australia (Victoria).
Deposited on long-term loan in the La Trobe Picture Collection, State Library of Victoria

Charles Joseph La Trobe, 1801-1875, artist
Rose's Gap, The Grampians, 1850
Sepia wash on paper
Collection: National Trust of Australia (Victoria).
Deposited on long-term loan in the La Trobe Picture Collection, State Library of Victoria

They had been there for two years without official sanction, and had built cottages for themselves and their workmen, and sheds for their stock. They had applied to the Colonial Office for permission to settle the area, but did not wait for an answer, knowing they would not be given approval – at least not immediately.

Their treatment of Major Mitchell and his travel-weary party was so hospitable that the Major informed them of the rich land to the north. The result was that the Hentys took up extensive land holdings in Australia Felix around Grange Burn, now named Hamilton, at *Merino Downs* and at *Muntham*.

Not very long afterwards, Samuel Pratt Winter in 1837 crossed from Van Diemen's Land and took up Tahara and Spring Valley (Murndal) on the Wannon River, he and his brother soon stocking their holdings with sheep. Murndal homestead and its surrounding landscape, which we had the privilege of seeing today, are historically significant since they clearly show very early land settlement and large-scale pastoral enterprise in Victoria. The acquisition and improvement of a pastoral run from the earliest years of squatting in Victoria is demonstrated through the ownership and industry of one family. The different phases of construction of the charming house, built at various stages since the stone cottage it incorporates, demonstrate the family's great respect for continuity, permanence and tradition. A notable feature is the library at Murndal, begun in the earliest period of settlement in Victoria, and surviving intact today.

La Trobe liked nothing better than setting out from Melbourne on horseback to explore the territory he had been sent to manage. He had a double imperative as the new administrator: the need to open up the colony to the growing surge of immigrants in search of a new and rewarding future, and his responsibility to discover the potential of this far-off British colony. Added to this was his own passion for the outdoor life and the beauties that Nature had to offer.

In the fifteen years he spent as administrator of the colony, La Trobe made ninety-four major journeys through country Victoria which he carefully documented in his private diary. Apart from respite from the stress of administration, his enthusiasm for the world around him, as well as his official regional responsibilities, provided the necessary impetus for these exploratory journeys.

La Trobe was no stranger to finding his way in unfamiliar territory in many parts of the world. By getting out into the countryside, he obtained a first-hand impression of the country he had to manage. Former Victorian Governor Dr Davis McCaughey noted in his book on *Colonial Governors* that La Trobe covered more territory in his country 'rambles' on foot and on horseback than many of his successors have done in far more comfortable conditions.

Charles Joseph La Trobe, 1801-1875, artist
The Grampians, Mt Sturgeon and Mt Abrupt, March 1850
Pencil and sepia wash on paper
Collection: National Trust of Australia (Victoria).
Deposited on long-term loan in the La Trobe Picture Collection, State Library of Victoria

From 1840 to 1854, he visited Geelong on horseback forty-five times, Cape Otway and Cape Schanck – to the far west and far east of his domain – five times each, the Mount Macedon district on ten occasions and, after 1851, the goldfields of Ballarat, Bendigo and Castlemaine and environs several times each. La Trobe was the explorer who charted a route from Melbourne to south Gippsland in 1845. He personally blazed a trail to Cape Otway, after two failed attempts to penetrate the Otway Forest, and was responsible for the installation of the necessary lighthouse there.

His first visit to the district to the far west of Melbourne was in February 1843 when he visited Port Fairy, Portland, the Stony Rises, Mt Rouse and the Grampians, in the company of the first Police Commissioner for The Grange, Acheson French. On this occasion he stayed with French's father-in-law, Dr Watton, at Mt Rouse, and with Edward Henty at Muntham, the run adjacent to Merino Downs another property visited by the La Trobe Society group during this weekend.

La Trobe had used his artistic talent in his previous travels to describe in a visual way the places he visited and the scenery about him. It is fortunate that 437 images are still in existence today in the Picture Collection of the State Library of Victoria. We have copies of fine albums of La Trobe's works and other books of interest available here tonight. Of his paintings, 168 watercolours and sketches record his fifteen years in Australia, touring Victoria and visiting Tasmania and Sydney. In Victoria, his sketches on these tours documented the landscape in the earliest period of European settlement and, as such, provide rare and valuable first-hand evidence of the topography at this time. On his journeys, La Trobe was often the guest of squatter Captain Richard Bunbury at his property near Mount William in the Grampians. La Trobe's letters and sketches show his great enthusiasm for the Grampians, the only Australian landscape he compared to his peerless Switzerland. He made at least three excursions to the Grampians and his folio includes ten sketches depicting various features of the mountain range. His was a preference for dramatic mountain formations, of great heights and escarpments. He wrote:

> We made a dash at the upper extremity of the Grampians, with a view to ascend Mt William, the highest mountain mass of the group (4500 feet). I was certainly wonderfully fortunate to command a really fine & cloudless day for this purpose … and I felt an almost boyish delight in finding I could achieve a downright alpine scramble up the steep face of that singular pile with as much spirit as ever … I really do not know what to admire most, the extraordinary view, which comprises the whole of the Grampians and Victoria chains in the vicinity, as unbroken & picturesque in the details as any chain of the class I ever saw …

La Trobe's fine sketch of Rose's Gap had allowed him to indulge his passion for climbing as he sought locations from which to record the geological origins of his surroundings. He wrote of the view:

> The scenery of the Gap or opening in this part of the Grampians is really very fine. The precipices of naked and broken rock rising 1,000 feet above the wooded parks. The Gap cuts off the upper extremity of the chain … I see a great many new flowers.

Charles Joseph La Trobe, 1801-1875, artist
Opening of the Upper Precipice of Mt William, Grampians, 1850
Sepia wash on paper
Collection: National Trust of Australia (Victoria).
Deposited on long-term loan in the La Trobe Picture Collection, State Library of Victoria

Charles Joseph La Trobe, 1801-1875, artist
The Elephant on the Great Plains, Port Phillip, 1847
Pencil and sepia wash on paper
Collection: National Trust of Australia (Victoria).
Deposited on long-term loan in the La Trobe Picture Collection, State Library of Victoria

> I am convinced that a host of perfectly new things will be seen here in the spring.

Like Bunbury, La Trobe was entranced by the 'new and exceedingly beautiful' botanical discoveries he made. His keen eye and fine hand have provided a legacy of an early period in Australia which helps to illuminate his primary role as administrator in the region.

On his perambulations by horseback in the Western District, La Trobe met with many of the earliest settlers. These included close friendships with all the Henty Brothers with whom he stayed on more than one occasion in their homesteads, and with other squatters he came to know as a member of the Melbourne Club.

Acheson French, first Police Magistrate of the district, was a frequent companion on many horseback rides in the area. He had taken up the *Monivae* squatting run in 1841, comprising 17,280 acres and holding 5,000 sheep. Born at Monivae Castle, Galway in Ireland, he was considered the most important individual in the early years of the district. James Thomson purchased *Monivae* from the estate of Acheson French in October 1870 after he had died in a swimming accident at St Kilda. Dr Watton, his father-in-law, was the medical officer at the Mount Rouse Aboriginal Reserve, not far from *Kolor* which is on our itinerary tomorrow. His son, Edmond Watton married Adelaide Susan, the daughter of Cuthbert Fetherstonhaugh, Hamilton Police Magistrate from 1854, whose property was also on the schedule for the La Trobe Society tour.

La Trobe was a man of education and culture, of upright character with the reputation of acting always in the interests of the colony under his administration, and setting a standard of civilized life in a remote part of the British Empire. He grew to love the landscape and the unusual flora and fauna he came across in his many ventures into rural areas, especially in this western part of his territory. Despite many obstacles in his path, he was a man of vision for the colony under his care in its formative years, and he laid the solid foundations for the Victoria of today.

The American Ancestors of the La Trobe Family

By Tim Gatehouse

Tim Gatehouse is an eighth generation descendant of Henry Antes, the leader of the Moravian community in Pennsylvania in the mid-eighteenth century, and the great grandfather of Charles Joseph La Trobe. He is a retired Melbourne solicitor, with an interest in historical research and archeology, and has worked on archeological sites in Australia, Scotland, Italy and The Phillipines.

Tim will be Guest Speaker at the La Trobe Society Annual General Meeting in August.

Although the histories of Charles Joseph La Trobe's father Christian Ignatius La Trobe, his grandfather Benjamin La Trobe, and the Hugenot origins of the La Trobe family are well documented, there seems to have been very little published in relation to the American heritage of the La Trobe family.

The American connections of the La Trobes originated with the marriage of Charles Joseph La Trobe's grandfather Benjamin to Anna Margaretta Antes in 1756 at Herrnhut in Saxony. The origins of the Antes family can be traced back to seventeenth century Germany and the Netherlands.

Anna Margaretta Antes's father was Johann Heinrich Antes (referred to in historical records as Henry Antes) (1701-1755). Henry Antes emigrated to Pennsylvania in 1722 with his parents Phillip Frederick Antes (died 1746) and Anna Katherina Kinder.[1] Henry Antes was then twenty-one years old.

The Antes family name had originally been Von Blume (in English, 'of the flower'). During the Thirty Years War (1618-1648), which began as a struggle for supremacy in Europe between Protestant and Catholic factions, some members of the Catholic Von Blume family became Protestants. Amongst these was a Baron Von Blume, who was also the abbot of a German Monastery. He left the monastery and his religious order and joined the German Reformed Church. He subsequently married the former abbess of a German convent who had also become a Protestant.[2]

The remaining Catholic members of the family continued to use the name Von Blume while the Protestant branch adopted the surname 'Anthos', being Greek for 'flower'. Over the years the spelling of the name changed to 'Antes', with occasional minor variations.

By the early eighteenth century some of the descendants of the former abbot and abbess were living in the town of Freinsheim in the Rhenish Palatinate.[3] These were Phillip Frederick Antes, his wife Anna Katherina Antes, and their children amongst whom was Henry Antes.[4] The family emigrated to Pennsylvania in 1722. Henry Antes had been apprenticed to a millwright and master builder in Freinsheim and he brought these skills with him to America.

In 1725 at Whitemarsh, Pennsylvania, Henry Antes married Christina Elizabeth De Wees. The origins of the De Wees family can be traced back further than those of the Antes and La Trobe families.

The surname 'De Wees' was first recorded when a child named Jan Pietre was born in Dordrecht in the Netherlands in 1563. His parents died when he was an infant and he was adopted and given the surname of 'De Wees', being Dutch for 'orphan'. In the early seventeenth century a descendant of Jan Pietre De Wees, Hendrick Adrian De Wees married a lady named Adriaentje Jans. Their son Garret Hendrick De Wees (1641-1701) in 1662 married a lady named Zytian Liuwes (1644-1703).

De Wees became apprenticed as a paper maker to Wilhelm Rittenhouse (his sister Wilhelmina's father-in-law). In 1697 William De Wees married Anna Christina Mehls, the daughter of a lawyer named Johann Heinrich Mehls and his wife Catherine. In 1710 William De Wees built his own paper mill, the second in America.[8]

By this time the extended De Wees and Rittenhouse families had established a thriving paper manufacturing and flour milling business on the Wissahickon Creek in what is now Fairmount Park, Philadelphia. The remaining buildings are now known as Rittenhouse Town and are preserved as a historic site.[9] The most prominent member of the Rittenhouse family is David Rittenhouse (1732-1796), scientist, mathematician and astronomer, after whom a moon crater and one of the main squares in Philadelphia are named.[10]

Henry Antes House, Pennsylvania, USA.
This image is the property of the Goschenhoppen Historians Inc., who are the owners of the house.

Garret and Zytian De Wees had several children of whom two are relevant to the history of the forbears of the La Trobe family. These were Wilhelmina Pietre De Wees (1672-1736) and her brother William De Wees (1680-1745).[5]

In 1688 the De Wees family emigrated from the Netherlands to New York. In 1689 Wilhelmina married Nicholas (usually referred to as Claus) Rittenhouse at the Dutch Reformed Church at New York, and then moved to Germantown, Pennsylvania, where the Rittenhouse family had been established since 1686.[6]

Thirteen families from the German town of Krefeld had founded Germantown in 1683. They were weavers by trade and Mennonites by religion. Claus Rittenhouse's father Wilhelm was one of their first ministers. Wilhelm Rittenhouse, as well as being a minister, was a master paper maker having learned this craft in Germany and the Netherlands. In 1690 he built the first paper mill in America.[7]

In 1689 the other members of the De Wees family also moved to Germantown. William

When the Antes family arrived in America in 1722 they were members of the German Reformed Church. At this period there were numerous Protestant sects in Pennsylvania, many of whose members had fled persecution in Europe. Henry Antes wished to unite these various congregations, and in an attempt to do so, founded the Associated Brethren of Skippack. A number of conferences were held but unity was not achieved.[11]

However, in 1741 Count Zinzendorf, the leader of the Moravian Church arrived in Pennsylvania. The Moravians, or as they were also known, the Unitas Fratrem, or United Brethren, had originated in Moravia and Bohemia, provinces of Holy Roman Empire, ruled by the Catholic Habsburg dynasty. As Protestants, they had been forced to leave the Habsburg territories and for many years had wandered homeless through Europe. They eventually reached the estate of Count Zinzendorf in Saxony. He was a Protestant landowner of Pietist views and was impressed by the sincerity of the Moravians religious beliefs and by their frugal hardworking way of life. He gave them permission to settle on his lands, and

assisted them in the founding of the village they built there which was named Herrnhut.

Count Zinzendorf soon joined the Moravians himself, settled disagreements, which had arisen between the inhabitants of Herrnhut, and set about organising the Moravians as a church and community. He was an inspired leader and an eloquent preacher. Moravians believed in missionary work to non-Christians, but not to fellow Christians. To other Christian congregations they showed tolerance and encouragement and where necessary, material assistance. This somewhat unusual characteristic was sometimes misinterpreted as being covert interference.[12] [13]

The Moravians gradually spread all over Europe and to Britain, where they soon became a respected component of society due to their religious, educational and cultural activities. They also established missions to non- believers including the Native Americans in Pennsylvania. It was when Count Zinzendorf visited the missionaries there that he met Henry Antes. They soon found that they shared similar religious principles, and both were broad minded and tolerant. It was therefore not surprising that Henry Antes himself joined the Moravians.

Amongst the beliefs of the Moravians was the equality of all races, all classes of society, and of men and women. Accordingly, they believed that women should be educated to the same standard as men. Wherever Moravians settled they established schools.

Count Zinzendorf was greatly impressed by the intellectual ability of Henry Antes's daughter Anna Margaretta, then aged fourteen. When he returned to England in 1743 he persuaded her parents to allow her to accompany him, so that she could be educated to the extent of her capacity in the Moravian schools there, first at London and later at Fulneck in Yorkshire, which became the centre of Moravian educational activity.

Anna Margaretta Antes eventually became the supervisor of the Moravian girls school at Fulneck. The Reverend Benjamin La Trobe was the Superintendent of all Moravian educational establishments in England and was based at Fulneck (which is still the centre of Moravian activity in Britain and the site of one of their schools). They met as colleagues and subsequently married.

Meanwhile, in Pennsylvania, Anna Margaretta's father Henry Antes had assumed leadership of the Moravians there. They had made many converts since the visit of Count Zinzendorf, and Henry himself was a gifted lay preacher. He was described as being 'unusually broadminded and singularly free from prejudice and bigotry'.[14] It could almost be a description of his great grandson, Charles Joseph La Trobe.

In 1741, acting on behalf of the Moravians, Henry Antes purchased five hundred acres in Pennsylvania on which to establish a Moravian settlement. This was the nucleus of the town of Bethlehem. It is still the centre of the Moravian Church in North America. Henry Antes later purchased one hundred thousand acres on behalf of the Moravians in North Carolina on which another settlement named Wachovia was founded.[15]

In 1745, Henry Antes moved from his farm at Upper Frederick to Bethlehem. The farmhouse, which he built in 1736, and which was the childhood home of Anna Margaretta and her ten brothers and sisters, is still standing and preserved as a National Historic Landmark. When Henry moved to Bethlehem, the farmhouse became a Moravian boys school. In accordance with the Moravian belief in racial equality, Europeans and the descendants of Negro slaves were educated here. It was the first integrated school in America. Although Henry Antes later had differences of opinion with the Moravians over doctrinal issues, he continued to manage their business affairs until the end of his life. He died in 1755. His wife Christina Elizabeth lived until 1782.[16]

Apart from Anna Margaretta, three of the other eleven children of Henry and Christina Elizabeth Antes achieved prominence. Phillip Frederick Antes (1730-1801) was a colonel in the Philadelphia Militia during the Revolutionary War. He cast the first cannon used by the revolutionary army, and was considered so dangerous by the British that they put a price on his head. Despite this he evaded capture, on occasions very narrowly, and survived the war to become a member of the Pennsylvania legislature, and a judge. It was at Phillip Frederick's invitation that George Washington used the Antes farmhouse as his head quarters in September 1777 after the capture of Philadelphia by the British.[17] When Benjamin Henry Latrobe visited the President many years later at Mount Vernon, he remembered the Antes family and inquired after their welfare.[18]

Phillip Frederick's younger brother Johann Heinrich, (known as John Henry) (1736-1820), was a lieutenant colonel in the revolutionary war. He is best known for building Fort Antes in 1776 on what was then the western frontier of Pennsylvania. The fort survived Indian attacks when that section of the frontier had to

Charles Willson Peale, 1741-1827, painter. Benjamin Henry Latrobe, c.1804. Oil painting on canvas.
Barack Obama was sworn in as the 44th President by the Chief Justice of the United States on 20 January, 2009 in front of this portrait in the White House.

be temporarily abandoned the following year. Although no longer standing, the site of the fort is still marked in the small town of Antes Fort.[19]

Rather confusingly, another Antes son was also named John. John Antes (1739-1811) was ordained as a Moravian minister. He was sent as a missionary to Egypt, where he was on one occasion captured by the Mamluk soldiers and held for ransom. During this period of captivity he was badly beaten, and never fully recovered from his injuries. He subsequently retired to England, where he became a prolific composer of Moravian hymns.[20]

Anna Margaretta Antes and her husband The Reverend Benjamin La Trobe had several children amongst whom were Christian Ignatius La Trobe, the father of Charles Joseph La Trobe, Mary Agnes La Trobe who married a Yorkshire manufacturer named John Bateman and whose son was Edward La Trobe Bateman (1816-1897), an artist who also came to Victoria and lived for a time with his cousin at Jolimont, and Benjamin Henry Latrobe (1764-1820).

Benjamin Henry Latrobe

Benjamin Henry Latrobe re-established the La Trobe connection with his mother's Antes family in America. The family tradition is that Benjamin Henry Latrobe trained as an engineer with John Smeaton, one of the most famous civil engineers of the nineteenth century, and later as an architect with Samuel Pepys Cockerell, one of the great nineteenth century British Architects.[21] [22] [23]

In 1790 Benjamin Henry Latrobe married Lydia Sellon, the daughter of a London clergyman. They had two children, Lydia, born in 1791 and Henry, born in 1792.[24]

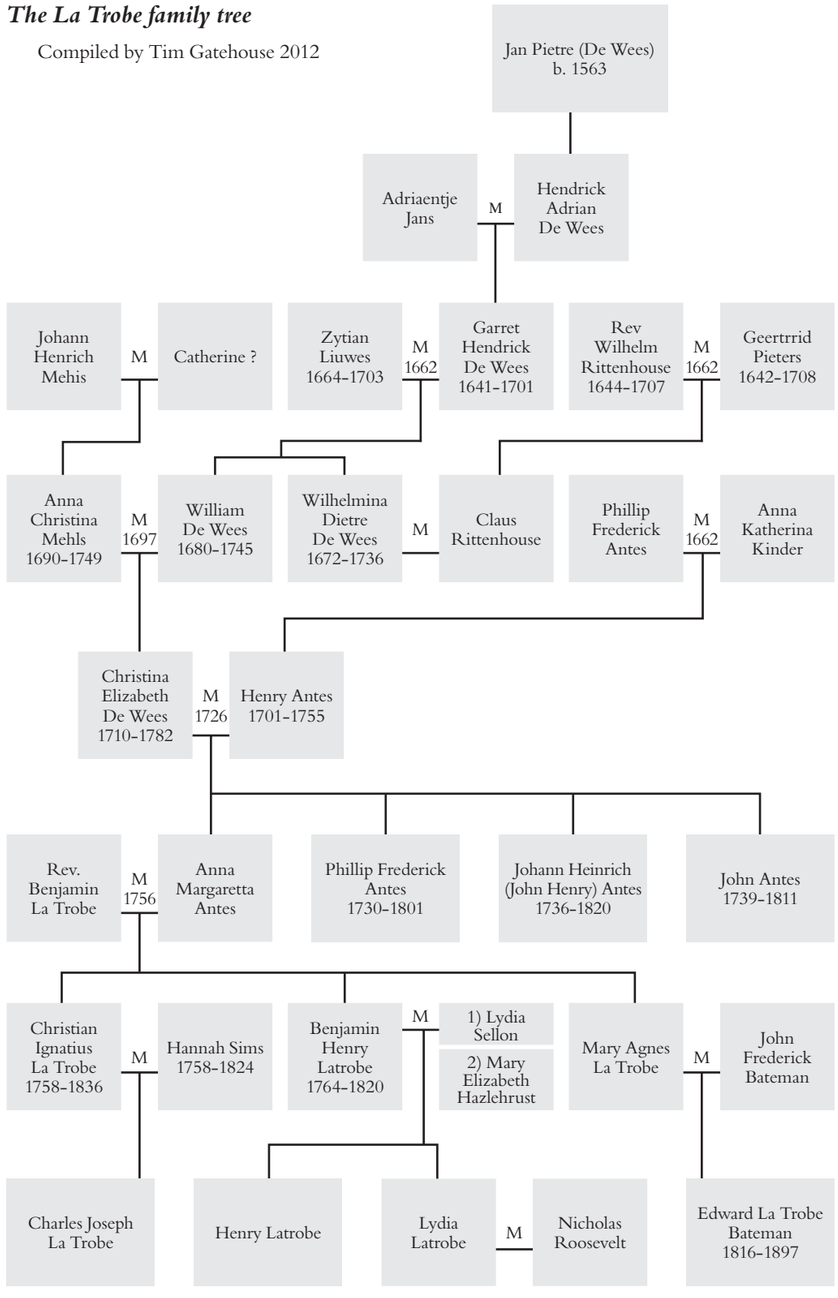
Benjamin Henry Latrobe practised as an architect in England, two of his designs being Ashdown House and Hammerwood House in Sussex, both of which are still standing. In 1793 Lydia died and Benjamin Henry became deeply depressed. He decided to start a new life in America. The Moravian practice of raising children in a semi-communal style resulted in some Moravians developing an indifference to family life. In others, the lack of family life in childhood led to a craving for it in adulthood.[25] Such was the case with Benjamin Henry Latrobe. Charles Joseph La Trobe had a similar enjoyment of his own family.

In 1800 Benjamin Henry Latrobe remarried. His wife was Mary Elizabeth Hazlehurst. They had five children, many of whose descendants are still living in the United States. On his remarriage, at his new wife's insistence, Benjamin Henry's two children from his first marriage joined him in America. His son Henry died young, unmarried. His daughter Lydia eventually married Benjamin Henry's close friend and business partner Nicholas Roosevelt, an entrepreneur, engineer and inventor.[26]

Benjamin Henry Latrobe's initial success in America was to a large extent due to his Antes family connections, which enabled him to obtain architectural work, and his share of the Antes inheritance established him financially.[27] Regrettably he was not a businessman, and his involvement in Roosevelt's business ventures, like the Philadelphia Waterworks and steamboats, for which Roosevelt invented the side paddle wheel, brought him to the verge of bankruptcy by the end of his life.[28] Through the complex Roosevelt family relationships, Nicholas and Lydia Latrobe Roosevelt were the great grand uncle and aunt of President Theodore Roosevelt.[29]

The La Trobe family tree

Compiled by Tim Gatehouse 2012



Benjamin Henry Latrobe's most famous work is the United States Capitol in Washington. The British burned the first building when they captured Washington in 1814, so Latrobe then had to start again. Although it has since been added to by other architects, the central section of the Capitol is Latrobe's design.[30]

The White House, originally designed by James Hoban, was also burned, and was reinstated to Latrobe's designs. He designed the east and west terraces,[31] and also the north and south porticoes.[32] The porticoes were not actually built until after Latrobe's death. The main block of the White House as we see it today is Latrobe's design.[33] [34]

In 1805 Latrobe designed the Roman Catholic Cathedral in Baltimore. Like his Bank of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia, it was designed in the classical style. Benjamin Henry Latrobe is regarded as the originator of the Greek revival style in the United States, and the founder of architecture as a profession in that country.

He also designed a number of private houses for prominent citizens. Many of these commissions resulted from his Antes family connections. His houses were renowned not only for their elegant proportions and correct classical details, but also for their ingenious and convenient planning. Amongst them were the Decatur house in Washington, now a house museum, the Van Ness house, also in Washington, now demolished, and the recently restored house built for Senator Pope in Lexington, Kentucky.

In 1820 Benjamin Henry Latrobe went to New Orleans in an attempt to revive his architecture career, but died there of yellow fever. He is buried in an unmarked grave.

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* Benjamin Henry Latrobe spelt his name as one word, the original spelling of the name (Ed.)

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31 Esther Singleton – The Story of the White House, 1908: Hodder and Stoughton, London.

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Friends of La Trobe's Cottage

An impressive number of members of the La Trobe Society and Friends of La Trobe's Cottage attended the celebration of Charles Joseph La Trobe's 211th birthday on Sunday 25 March at Domain House and at the Cottage. The event was co-hosted by La Trobe University with the La Trobe Society.

La Trobe Society President Diane Gardiner warmly welcomed Professor Adrienne Clark AC, Chancellor of La Trobe University, and the 75 members present. Professor Clark spoke briefly about the history of La Trobe University since it was founded in 1964, and its naming after Victoria's first Lieutenant Governor Charles Joseph La Trobe. She commended the work of the La Trobe Society in raising La Trobe's profile in the community, and expressed her hope that there should be on-going co-operation between the University and the Society in the future.

The Chancellor introduced Guest Speaker, Richard Broome, Professor of History at La Trobe University. His topic, 'La Trobe's Views of Nature', examined the close affinity La Trobe had since his youth with the natural world, a passion stimulated anew by the beauties of the territory under his administration for fifteen years from 1839 to 1854.

Following Professor Broome's address, guests continued the celebration at La Trobe's Cottage where Martin Purslow, CEO of the National Trust of Australia (Victoria), proposed the toast to La Trobe, and the Chancellor cut the birthday cake.

All those present were impressed not only by the fresh and cared for appearance inside and out of the Cottage under the management of Lorraine Finlay, but especially by the great improvements to the Cottage garden under the professional care of Sandi Pullman and her Garden Sub-committee, with Citywide, City of Melbourne

John Drury
Chairman
Friends of La Trobe's Cottage

Forthcoming events

AUGUST

Tuesday 7

Annual General Meeting, followed by Dinner
Time: 6.00pm for 6.30pm
Venue: The Lyceum Club
Host: Dr Dianne Reilly
Guest Speaker:
Member Mr Tim Gatehouse
Topic: The Turkish La Trobe.
The career of Claude Alexandre de Bonneval, the Sultan's advisor at the Ottoman Court.
Cost: $70.00 Members and Guests
$35.00 Lecture and Drinks only
A booking slip will be sent to members nearer the date.

OCTOBER

Date to be advised

Opening of Charles La Trobe Lounge
Venue: La Trobe University

Date to be advised

Neuchâtel Presentation
Venue: Swiss Club

NOVEMBER

Friday 9 – Sunday 11

La Trobe's Geelong Revisited Weekend Tour
Details will be advised closer to the date.

DECEMBER

Friday 7

Christmas Cocktails and Exhibition of paintings of Early Melbourne
Time: 6.30 – 8.30 pm
Venue: 401 Collins Street, Melbourne
Host: Mr Gary Morgan
Guest Speaker: Dr Helen MacDonald
Topic: Inhabiting Melbourne, 1835-1845: Henry Condell and other early settlers.
Further details to be advised.

Contributions welcome

The Editorial Committee welcomes contributions to La Trobeana which is published three times a year.

Further information about
the journal may be found at
www.latrobesociety.org.au/LaTrobeanaIndex.html

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"Qui la cèrca, la trova"