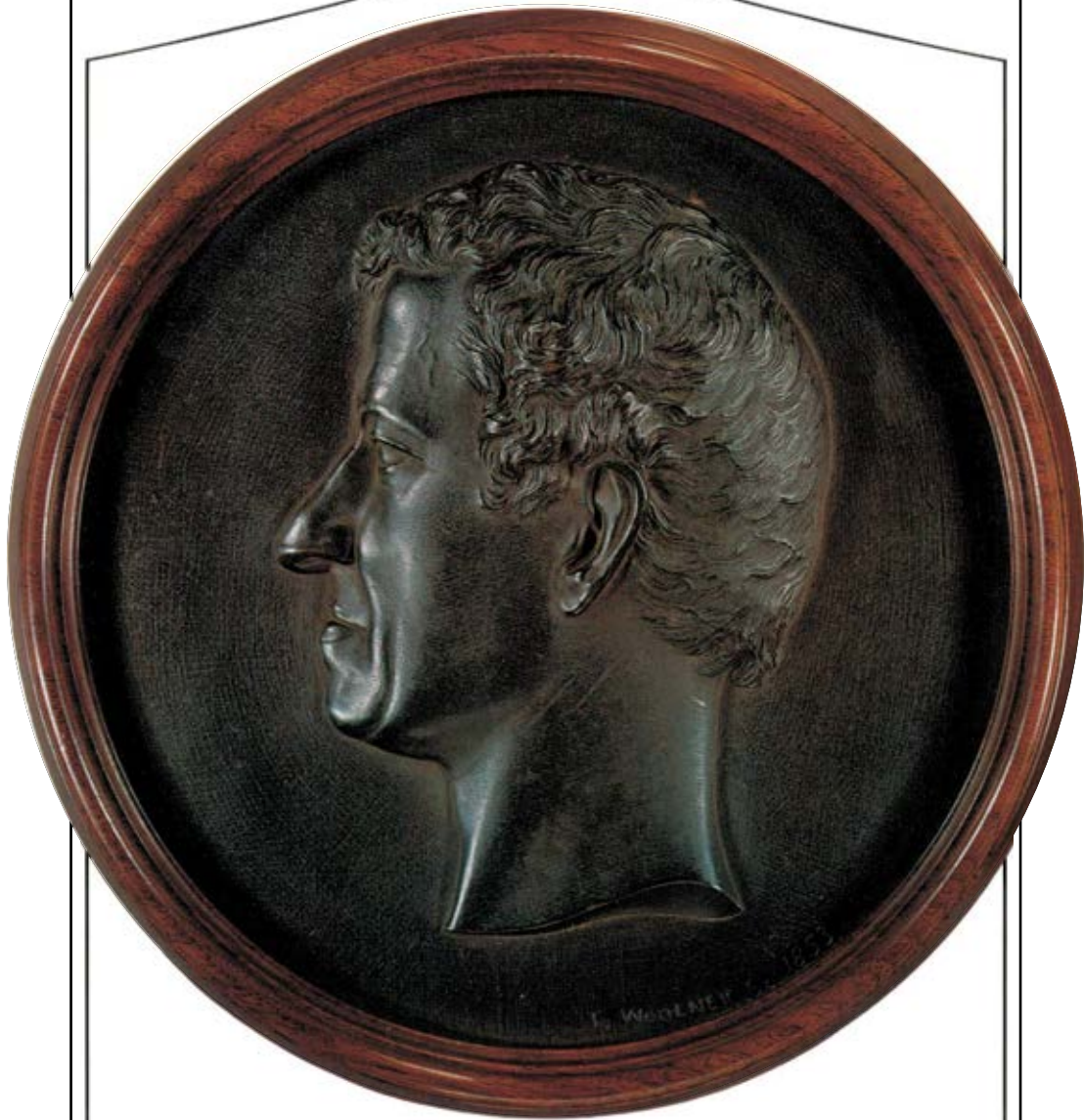


LA TROBEANA



Journal of the C. J. La Trobe Society Inc.

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The C J La Trobe Society Inc was formed in 2001 to promote understanding and appreciation of the life, work and times of Charles Joseph La Trobe, Victoria's first Lieutenant-Governor. www.latrobesociety.org.au

La Trobeana is published three times a year: in March, July and November. The journal publishes peer-reviewed articles, as well as other written contributions, that explore themes in the life and times of Charles Joseph La Trobe, aspects of the colonial period of Victoria's history, and the wider La Trobe family.



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FRONT COVER

Thomas Woolner, 1825-1892, sculptor

Charles Joseph La Trobe, 1853

Bronze portrait medallion showing the left profile of Charles Joseph La Trobe, diam. 24cm.

Signature and date incised in bronze l.r.: T. Woolner Sc. 1853: / M

La Trobe, Charles Joseph, 1801-1875. Accessioned 1894

Pictures Collection, State Library of Victoria, H5489

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A Word from the President

It seems no time at all since the last action-packed edition of *La Trobeana* appeared in March, and yet, the mid-year issue has arrived, full of the interesting contents we have come to expect about Charles Joseph La Trobe and his era.

Although we have long realised what a multi-talented man La Trobe was in his role as Superintendent of the Port Phillip District of New South Wales and, later, as Lieutenant-Governor of the Colony of Victoria, very little has been known until now about his descendants and their own talents and achievements. Dianne Reilly's article on La Trobe's son Charles Albert La Trobe and his descendants is the result of her long friendship with his grand-daughter Carlotta Blake who lives in England at Hove near Brighton. The La Trobe family's strong connections with the theatre date back to his own thespian interests and to the fact that his wife had a link to one of the greatest theatrical dynasties – the Dibdin-Pitt family of actors and theatre directors.

Professor John Barnes has probed further Charles Joseph La Trobe's passion for geology and the natural world in his illuminating article about the history of the La Trobe gold nugget to which we were alerted by Susan Priestley in her research report in 2013. Vice-President Daryl Ross, with his deep interest in his family associations with Switzerland, investigates the

strong Montmollin/La Trobe connection with the history of Montmirail, an education centre for girls in the nineteenth century located near Neuchâtel. Robert Christie's feature on Edward Jones Brewster enlightens us about the life of one of the numerous young Irish lawyers who arrived in Port Phillip in the early days of settlement, hoping to make their mark.

Because of Susan Priestley's talent for discovering the unexpected in our history, the fascinating story has emerged of 'La Trobe's dairy farms', hitherto unknown on the Bellarine Peninsula, and is included in this issue. Helen Armstrong has given us the intriguing chronicle of *Villa La Trobe* in Brighton, named by its owner to honour the Lieutenant-Governor. Loreen Chambers' analysis of, and guide to L.J. Blake's 1975 volume of *Letters of Charles Joseph La Trobe* also pays credit to the work of Helen Armstrong as editor and John Botham as webmaster in adding these and many more letters to our impressive website.

The charming exhibition *Art and Nature: Reflections of two of Ightham Mote's previous residents Prideaux John Selby and Charles Joseph La Trobe* on display at Ightham Mote in Kent until 30 October 2016, is ably reported by Helen Botham who, with John Botham and Loreen and John Chambers, recently visited this picturesque moated manor house, as did Dianne Reilly and John Drury in March.

It is with sadness that we note the passing of **Rodney Davidson AO, OBE**, who died 13 April 2016, aged eighty-three. Rodney was the third President of The C J La Trobe Society from 2003 until 2009. He was very generous to the Society, sponsoring a La Trobe Society Fellowship at the State Library Victoria and donating a substantial sum to the La Trobe Statue Fund in 2006. He also made a generous donation to the National Trust Foundation for future support of La Trobe's Cottage.

Rodney hosted several functions at his apartment in Queens Road where members of the Society were able to view his superb collection of Australiana. With his strong interest in Australian history and heritage Rodney was Chairman of the National Trust of Australia (Victoria) from 1965 to 1982 and subsequently its President, and Chairman of the National Trusts of Australia from 1982 to 1991, in addition to many other roles in heritage and the arts. He was Emeritus President and Emeritus Chairman of the National Trust in Victoria.

On behalf of us all, I offer sincere congratulations to member **Barbara Czech** who received the OAM in the Order of Australia in the Queen's Birthday Honours.

I draw your attention to two of the events arranged for our members in July and August. The La Trobe Society annual Rare Book Week

Lecture will be held at Roy Morgan Research, 401 Collins Street Melbourne on Friday 15 July with Guest Speakers from the State Library. The Annual General Meeting and Dinner will take place at the Lyceum Club on Wednesday 3 August with distinguished historian and author Professor Graeme Davison as Guest Speaker.

I look forward to seeing many of you at these functions.

Diane Gardiner AM
Hon. President
C J La Trobe Society

Lieutenant-Governor Charles Joseph La Trobe ... back to stay!

On Saturday 5 March 2016 at 11am, Charles Joseph La Trobe, the founding father of Queenscliff, and first Lieutenant-Governor of the Port Phillip District of New South Wales, returned to stay in this historic town after an absence of more than 160 years.

A bronze bust of La Trobe by acclaimed sculptor and La Trobe Society member Peter Corlett OAM, located on the forecourt of the Queenscliffe Historical Museum, was unveiled by Her Excellency the Honourable Linda Dessau AM, 29th Governor of Victoria.

In her address, the Governor recognised La Trobe's significant role on the Bellarine Peninsula, and congratulated the community on achieving such a worthy memorial to him.

First, I acknowledge the traditional owners of the land on which we are gathering and pay my respects to their elders past and present and to any elders with us this morning.

I am delighted to be here in Queenscliff, not only to unveil this wonderful sculpture of Lieutenant-Governor Charles La Trobe, but also just to be enjoying this beautiful Borough. There is a wonderful synergy for me as the Governor, to celebrate Charles La Trobe with you. He is so essential to the history of my role, just as he is to your history here.

When it comes to his Queenscliff connections, I am conscious that it was in fact La Trobe who renamed what had been called Shortland's Bluff, to Queenscliff, in honour of Queen Victoria.

I am conscious too that he was responsible for the construction of Victoria's first lighthouse not far from here, and that he was there to see it 'switched-on' in April 1843.

But La Trobe's links with this area were particularly personal too. After first visiting the Bellarine Peninsula in 1840, he fell under its spell and returned to build his own cottage, where he and his family spent their holidays.

When it comes to La Trobe's significant connection with the office I am now privileged to hold, it is well known that, in 1839, La Trobe was sent by Queen Victoria to Melbourne (at that time in the Port Phillip District of New South Wales), where he served as Superintendent until 1851. He then became the Lieutenant-Governor of Victoria from 1851-1854.

The story of his voyage to Melbourne says so much about the time. First, the La Trobes spent a full four months at sea, before arriving in Sydney. There La Trobe spent two months with Governor Gipps before the family sailed in another ship for Port Phillip.

When the La Trobes finally arrived, six months having passed since they had left England, the weather was too stormy to allow Mrs La Trobe to disembark. She had to wait on board the ship for another three days before she and the family could finally be rowed up river to Melbourne. After that, she still had to wade through muddy and unmade streets before arriving at her ultimate destination.

We cannot imagine how a twenty-nine year old Swiss-French noblewoman, married only four years, might have felt. (I was older and wiser and travelled only some ten minutes



Peter Corlett, sculptor
C J La Trobe CB, 2016
 bronze
 photograph courtesy John Drury



Unveiling of C J La Trobe bronze bust
by Hon Linda Dessau AM, 5 March 2016
 photograph courtesy John Drury

down St Kilda Road when I recently moved into Government House: that was daunting enough!

Mind you, I was ‘of a certain age’ too when I became Governor. For his part, Superintendent La Trobe was of a certain very much younger age at just 38!

The young La Trobe, who had none of the traditional experience for the role – neither military nor administrative – was, according to author Washington Irving: ‘... a man of a thousand occupations; a botanist, a geologist, a hunter of beetles and butterflies, a musical amateur, a sketcher of no mean pretensions, in short, a complete virtuoso; added to which he was a very indefatigable, if not always a very successful, sportsman’. In any event, La Trobe’s influence in his new role was so strong, it would shape Melbourne forever. It was La Trobe who set aside the land for the Royal Botanic Gardens, and for Government House (and its gardens) to be built. What foresight. And how much I – and all Victorians – can thank him for that!

When you are lucky enough to tour La Trobe’s Cottage, now standing on the Kings Domain, just near Government House, (but previously in Jolimont, near the Melbourne

Cricket Ground), you may well join me in appreciating his vision in setting aside land for the much bigger house that is a place of pride for this State.

Although today is about remembering the service that La Trobe gave to Victoria in so many ways, uppermost in my mind is that it is also about service in a much broader sense.

It is about the service of this community. It is about the countless hours spent by volunteers in the Historical Museum, and it is about the generous philanthropy and the effort that has gone into the fundraising for the realisation of this handsome sculpture.

You have all done yourselves and your community proud. Congratulations to you all.

It is now my privilege on behalf of the people of not only Queenscliff, but also Victoria, to officially unveil this beautiful and important bust of Charles La Trobe, the first Lieutenant-Governor of Victoria, and a man so significant to this glorious part of our State.

Linda Dessau

This is the acknowledgement, which has been lacking for so long, that the Borough of Queenscliff owes so much to this founding father, Charles Joseph La Trobe who was, as Queenscliff historian Barry Hill has written, ‘as much a beacon of progress and enlightenment as the lighthouse he installed at Shortland’s Bluff’.

A Family Legacy: Charles Albert La Trobe and His Descendants

By Dr Dianne Reilly AM

Dianne Reilly is an historian who was the La Trobe Librarian at State Library Victoria from 1982 until 2008. She has published widely on Charles Joseph La Trobe. An Honorary Fellow in the School of Historical and Philosophical Studies at the University of Melbourne, she is a co-founder of the C J La Trobe Society and is currently its Secretary.

Charles Albert La Trobe was the only son of Charles Joseph La Trobe. Born in Melbourne at *Jolimont* on 25 December 1845, he was the youngest of the four children of Charles and Sophie La Trobe.¹ His eldest sister Agnes Louisa was born in 1837, in Neuchâtel, Switzerland, while Eleanora Sophia (Nelly) and Mary Cecilia (Cécile), were born at their home *Jolimont* in Melbourne in 1842 and 1843 respectively.

Education in Melbourne for the La Trobe children posed quite a problem for their parents. Agnes was sent for a time to Mrs Anne Gilbert's school at the Mechanics' Institute in Collins

Street. However, it was eventually decided when she was eight to send her home to Neuchâtel in April 1845, 'as the only way to secure... the advantages of a good education',² where her aunt and grandmother could oversee her tuition.³ By the time she met her brother Charley for the first time in 1853, he was seven years of age.

Nelly and Cécile, and little Charley were taught at home at various times by a governess. Mademoiselle Béguin was employed in 1850, much to Sophie's satisfaction: '[She is] a great comfort to me – as I leave them to her with the greatest confidence'.⁴ Before Mademoiselle Béguin's arrival, Nelly had attended a school



Edward La Trobe Bateman, 1816–1897, artist
Jolimont, front, c.1852

Depicts Charley, Cécile and Nelly La Trobe
 Pictures Collection, State Library Victoria, H98.135/18

operated by a Mrs Connolly, but her mother complained that she had made more progress at home with a governess in three months than she made at school in twice the time.⁵

However, a year later, Sophie commented that: ‘Little Charley, [who] knew all his letters 9 months ago, has forgotten everything and does not show the least wish to learn anything. He knows a great many nursery rhymes. As he is three now, we’ll endeavor to try and begin in earnest’.⁶ For all her efforts, Sophie reported a couple of years later that:

I am trying to make [Charley] learn a hymn for dear Papa on Christmas day, but it is with the greatest difficulty that I can keep him for 10 minutes, but I hope that he will get it at last. I wished him very much to be able to read on the anniversary of his birthday, but he does not know much more than he did at the same time last year. I hope it will soon come.⁷

Despite Mademoiselle Béguin’s influence, Charley, at nearly seven years of age, appeared to be becoming, like his eldest sister, almost unmanageable. Earlier in the year, his father had written: ‘Poor Charley, he will turn out a perfectly wild kangaroo if he remains here long. Perhaps God may open the door for all of us to come home together’.⁸

La Trobe had resigned his position as Lieutenant-Governor of Victoria on 31 December 1852. However, since he had not yet been relieved, the ailing Sophie sailed on the

Blackwall on 25 February 1853, taking her three Melbourne-born children back to Switzerland where, despite the best of medical attention, she died in her mother’s house in Neuchâtel on 30 January 1854.

The bereaved La Trobe returned from Melbourne to take care of his children in Switzerland in 1854. He was keen to establish a permanent home for his family, as he wrote to his former long-serving housekeeper Charlotte Pellet early the following year: ‘My children are well, thank God, both in Switzerland & England. Little Charlie [*sic*], as well as Agnes, are at school, – but I hope in the process of time to have a home to receive my children in’.⁹

While Nelly and Cécile had benefitted from schooling at home in Neuchatel, La Trobe wrote to Charlotte Pellet that: ‘Agnes is now at school, but very happy, at Southwell near Newark [Nottinghamshire], under the care of the same excellent lady who educated our dear friend Mrs Perry’. Charley had been sent away to school in England soon after his return from Australia. His father wrote to Charlotte Pellet in the same letter: ‘Charlie is at school in Kent, and very happy – not a bad, tho’ a very giddy boy. He has grown very much as you may suppose’.¹⁰

Following their father’s remarriage in October 1855 to Rose, the widowed aunt who had cared for them since their mother’s death, the family lived in a number of leased residences in England over the next twenty years, the most notable being the picturesque *Ightham Mote* in Kent. They welcomed two further daughters, Margaret Rose and Isabelle Castellane Helen, in

1856 and 1858 respectively. From 1858 to 1866, their home was at *Whitbourne Court*, Worcester, from which La Trobe wrote: ‘My family is just at present on the point of a temporary scatter... I hope we shall all be at home again middle of next month to welcome Charley from school. What to do with young hopeful as yet I am quite at a loss to know’.¹¹

scenery’, a collection of twenty watercolour drawings dating probably from the 1820s, was offered for sale in 1972 by his grand-daughter, Carlotta Blake, to the National Library of Australia where it is preserved as ‘an important documentary record of the life of Australia’s Indigenous people and as an accumulation of the work of one of the country’s early professional



Charles Albert La Trobe, 1904
Carte de visite
Collection: Mrs Joy Harley

Charles Joseph need not have worried about young Charley’s future. He was soon to become a pupil of the eminent British civil engineer Sir Benjamin Baker. Baker’s large professional practice was involved ‘with most of the great engineering achievements of his day’, including the design and construction of railway bridges, the most remarkable being the Forth Railway Bridge (1882–1890) over the Firth of Forth near Edinburgh. Baker was also involved in the construction of the London Underground Central Line (1896–1900) which is still in use today. He was the consultant engineer on major projects in other countries, including the building of the Aswan Dam in Egypt.¹² As his grand-daughter Carlotta La Trobe Blake noted, after training from this eminent man, Charles Albert ‘went on to advise as a consultant engineer, on building railways in India and North and South America. I do know it involved the Peruvian Rail system, tales of extraordinary conditions, and altitude problems’.¹³

In the course of his travels as a consultant,¹⁴ Charles Albert was certainly in New York in 1872 when the watercolour album of convict artist Joseph Lycett came into his possession, since his signature appears on the inside of the upper cover.¹⁵ Lycett had been transported to New South Wales for forgery in 1814. ‘The Lycett Album: drawings of Aborigines and Australian

artists’. This album was published in 1990 by the National Library ‘as part of its commitment to make available rare and unique materials held in the national collection’.¹⁶

Apart from his professional work as an engineer, Charles Albert displayed a great interest in the theatre. At the Point Theatre in 1870, he appeared as Lord Lochinvar in the ‘great Scott-ish drama’ *Young Lochinvar, or, A Bold Stroke for a Bride*, based on a poem by Sir Walter Scott. His fellow actors in the play were five members of the Simonds family,¹⁷ which established a link with the La Trobe family in the next generation.

In 1874, Charles Albert returned to Melbourne where he had been born. He was invited to the wedding of Mary ‘Minnie’ Graham and Robert Martin which took place at Christ Church South Yarra on 23 April. Minnie was one of the daughters of James Graham, Charles Joseph’s agent in Melbourne, and named as an executor of his Will. However, he did not arrive in time for the marriage. James Graham wrote to Charles Joseph in puzzled and vexed tones:

We were much disappointed in finding no Charlie in the Mail Steamer, nor, not a line from him. We must hope better luck next time, but in the meantime, his non appearance is most

provoking, as we fully expected him to be present at Minnie's wedding which we had fixed for the 23rd... I am afraid neither Bride or Bridegroom would consent to a further postponement... it would have been very agreeable to me to have been able to introduce your son [to the wedding guests]. However, I hope to find some other opportunity.¹⁸

Be that as it may, when he eventually arrived he was feted by Melbourne society. Graham found him: 'looking exceedingly well and seems much pleased with the Country, and the way in which his Father's old friends have received him – One thing is certain, everyone is pleased with him and he is already a favourite on all sides'.¹⁹



Miss Carlotta Addison, c.1884
Engraving from a photograph by the
St James's Photographic Co.
Supplement to *Under the Clock*: a weekly
journal for playgoers
Photograph courtesy Carlotta Blake

As a result of his visit, he arranged to ship to New York, via San Francisco, a consignment of plants, including *Ixia* bulbs and Pigface, each of various colours, as well as other cuttings and Australian and New Zealand seeds, sourced from friends of his father. Another shipment from New York to Melbourne, via San Francisco and Sydney, was a consignment of seeds including sweet corn, Lima beans, tomato, eggplant, watermelon, musk melon and 'cantalope' melon.²⁰ These shipments may have been one of his 'business projects' undertaken while in Melbourne.²¹

November found him still in Melbourne, and enjoying some days with Minnie and her husband at their residence *Banyule Homestead* in Heidelberg. In December, he was considering

his departure but, as James Graham noted: '...he does not always ride when he puts his spurs on!'²² Christmas and the New Year came and went, with his host speculating as to what the young man's plans for his homeward journey might be. In fact, the newspaper shipping news reported that he departed Melbourne on 20 February 1875 as a saloon passenger on board the *Nubia*, bound for Bombay via Adelaide.²³ In March, Graham wrote to Charles Joseph that: 'Charlie finally got away by last month's Steamer– We heard from him, from the Heads, and also from Adelaide– all well and jolly– You will hear from him, from Bombay, before we shall'.²⁴

At some period, Charles Albert had met the celebrated young actress Carlotta Addison, and they were married in London on 12 September 1876, nearly a year after his father had died at Litlington in Sussex. Whether or not he would have approved of his son's marriage to an actress is the subject of a little conjecture since attitudes to the theatre, especially in the early part of the nineteenth century, were often ambivalent. This point was well demonstrated in a letter to Rose La Trobe from James Graham:

I must confess to being very much surprised to hear of Charlie's marriage. Not so much at the fact of the marriage itself, as that, most probably, would naturally happen some day, or other. But with the profession of the lady, and the fact that it had been kept so secretly from the knowledge of his old friends here. The first intimation of the marriage was received by me from Mr Groves²⁵... and all he said on the subject was, —'You will have heard of Charlie's intended marriage on the 12th inst'. From his saying nothing further on the matter, and also the reticence of yourself, and his sisters, the only conclusion I could then form was that it was a marriage that none of you very much approved of. The news received by the following mail of course cleared up all doubt. I most sincerely hope that it is a marriage that... may prove a good and happy one for him.²⁶

Charles Joseph may not have known of his son's involvement in the theatre, and equally, he may well have had a tolerant attitude. From a remark he made in a letter in 1865 to James Graham about 'Charlie pursuing his avocation in London',²⁷ it is likely that he was, at least, aware of it. It is possible that the wedding of Charles Albert and Carlotta was delayed out of courtesy to his father whose health was declining rapidly up to his death in December 1875.



Theatre Royal Haymarket, London, 1906
 Colour tinted postcard
 Photograph: The Theatres Trust, London

Charles Albert's marriage to Carlotta at St Matthew's Church, Oakley Square, near St Pancras in London, was reported in the London press:

The wedding was very quiet and a very pretty one. The bride wore *poult-de-soie* and *matelassé*, wreath of stephanotis and orange blossom, antique silver ornaments; the bridesmaids, lemon-coloured muslin with Valenciennes lace trimming and Turkey red bows, hats to match; Mrs H.M. Pitt (*née* Fanny Addison) wore pale mauve silk, with cream colour *damassé* over...²⁸

Carlotta was the younger daughter of Edward 'Haddy' Phillips Addison, popular comedian and stage manager. Born in Liverpool in 1849, her mother died at her birth.²⁹ Her older sister Fanny's marriage to the American actor Henry Mader Pitt continued a pattern of trans-Atlantic intermarriage between the theatrical Dibdin and Pitt families, dating back to the mid-eighteenth century.³⁰

Charles Albert continued his theatrical interests, especially as a member of the Addison Amateur Dramatic Club. In January 1898, he appeared in Henry Byron's comedy *Weak Woman*, with Mr S.V. Shea and Miss Victoria Addison among other actors, and in the following year, he was Stage Manager for an 'Invitation Performance' in Earl's Court, Kensington, of Herbert Gardner's comedy *Time will Tell*, again starring Mr S.V. Shea and Miss Victoria Addison, she being Charles Albert's twenty-one year old daughter using the stage name of Victoria Addison.³¹

Charles Albert La Trobe died in Kensington in 1909. His grand-daughter,

Carlotta Blake, was told later that 'The Old Guvnor' who loved giving parties was a unique personality who knew everyone and introduced her father, Charles de Montmollin La Trobe:

to people from all walks of life; a *bon viveur*, he knew more about food and wine than most. He was a close friend of Sir Richard Burbridge, at that time Managing Director of Harrods, who invited him to Harrods' cellar for his advice on wines. He was well known in London fooderies as a very special customer and friend.³²

Carlotta Addison and her sister Fanny were trained by their father for the dramatic profession, and as children played many juvenile parts at the Theatre Royal and the Amphitheatre in Liverpool. At that time, her father was the proprietor of the Theatre Royal at Doncaster in Yorkshire, one of oldest established centres for horse-racing in Britain. Carlotta Addison recalled:

My sister was already on the stage, when, at thirteen, to the surprise and consternation of my family, I, who had avowed my determination never to act, suddenly claimed a sort of right, as the manager's daughter, to take part in a performance of *Nine Points of the Law* at Doncaster.³³

Carlotta made her London stage debut in 1866 at St James's Theatre as Lady Frances Touchwood in a revival of Hannah Cowley's play *The Belle's Strategem*. In 1868 she joined the company of Squire Bancroft, a famous theatre director, playing a number of roles over the next four years at the Prince of Wales's Theatre,³⁴ and at the Gaiety³⁵ and Globe³⁶ Theatres. Her many roles included leading lady in *Partners for Life*, the

play that opened the Globe Theatre in October 1871.³⁷ In 1875, she played in Henry Byron's *Married in Haste* at the Haymarket. At this time, it was said of her: 'Among the few sterling English actresses of the present day, shining as stars in the theatrical hemisphere, the lady whose presence brightens the Globe holds a foremost place'.³⁸

Following her marriage, Carlotta's appearances in the West End included the part of Grace Harkaway in a revival of Dion Boucicault's *London Assurance* at the Prince of Wales's Theatre in 1877, and the starring role of Julia in a revival of Sheridan's *The Rivals* at the Haymarket Theatre in October 1878.³⁹



Captain Charles La Trobe (R) with Carlotta and Ken Blake, c.1955
 Photograph courtesy Carlotta Blake

Charles Albert and Carlotta had two children: Victoria Gertrude Isabelle, born in November 1877, and Charles de Montmollin, born in 1879. Victoria (Vickie) became an actress and in 1910 married Stephen Victor Shea-Simonds of the Simonds Brewing family, with whom she had acted in performances by the Addison Amateur Dramatic Club some years earlier. Their son, Patrick, was a test pilot and an actor. He and his wife Della had three sons: Charles, Robert and George. George Shea-Simonds emigrated to Australia in 1965, where he lived with his Australian wife near Geelong, and they developed a shared interest in thoroughbred horse racing.

It was Victoria Shea-Simonds who in 1924, with her brother Captain Charles La Trobe, donated to the State Library Victoria a number of drawings of La Trobe's Cottage in Melbourne in 1852-1853 by the artist Edward La Trobe Bateman, cousin of their grandfather Charles Joseph La Trobe. They also donated in 1960 to the National Trust of Australia

(Victoria) four folios of La Trobe's watercolours and landscape sketches, together with some family portraits; the watercolours and sketches have been on permanent loan to the State Library Victoria since 1976. Captain La Trobe gifted an oil portrait of his grandfather, a copy by Sir Francis Grant of the original painting in the Melbourne Town Hall, to the National Trust at the same time. This now hangs in the Executive Council Chamber at the Old Treasury Building in Melbourne.

Later in life, Carlotta wrote in the *Era Almanac* for 1901:

I remember being on tour with Gustavus V. Brooke, a most brilliant actor and kind-hearted man who went down in the ill-fated 'London' five days after it put out from Plymouth to Australia... I was playing lead at that period, and was cast for Virginia in Sheridan Knowles' *Virgilius*, in the title-role of which Mr Brooke was singularly great...⁴⁰

In fact, Carlotta had performed with many of the fine actors of the period, including the greatest Shakespearian actress of the era, Ellen Terry, who wrote to her friend George Bernard Shaw of 'Carlotta Addison's beautiful voice'.⁴¹ Her theatrical career was nicely summed up in 1901 by a journalist in one of the popular women's magazines, *Woman's Life*:

Before time had begun to silver her hair, one of the most delightfully sympathetic of the actresses on the stage was Miss Carlotta Addison, whose services were always being sought by the managers of the various West End theatres for the tender heroines of their plays. Now that another generation of leading ladies is to the front, Miss Addison is as gracefully playing their mothers with a tenderness and a sweetness which are peculiarly her own.⁴²

Carlotta Addison La Trobe died in London on 15 June 1914.

Her son, Charles de Montmollin La Trobe, a grandson of Charles Joseph and Sophie La Trobe, born in London on 23 April 1879, was educated at Bradfield College, located in the village of Bradfield in Berkshire. One notable aspect of its curriculum since 1881 is the three-yearly production of plays in Ancient Greek in the school's Greek Theatre. This theatrical dimension to the education of their son was surely an attraction for his parents.

He made his first appearance on the stage at the age of nineteen in *The Liars* by Henry Arthur Jones at the Grand Theatre in Derby. Following several years touring the provinces with well-known companies, including that of Ellen Terry, he toured to the West Indies in 1903 as both actor and stage manager with the



Evelyn La Trobe, c.1940
 Photograph courtesy Carlotta Blake

legendary Frank Benson's brilliant Shakespearian company, and to the United States in 1904 with the popular singer and actress Marie Tempest. This was a great training ground in theatrical management for him and, soon after his return to London, he became Stage Manager for the 1906 season at the Royalty Theatre of Gaston Meyer's French plays, followed by a provincial tour with Sarah Bernhardt. After various other work, he was appointed Stage Manager at the Haymarket Theatre from 1908 to 1915, thereby gaining vast experience in the theatre with leading actors and actresses, and with various companies in London. He 'knew most of the famous actors of the theatre and was a friend to Sir John Gielgud, Sir Ralph Richardson and Sir Michael Redgrave'.⁴³ The actor Donald Sinden recalled the episode when his friend Charles La Trobe presented him 'with an engraved silver ashtray: "For Donald Sinden, 644 performances non-stop 1949-50". I had given more consecutive performances [in *The Heiress*, an adaptation of Henry James' novel *Washington Square*] at the Theatre Royal, Haymarket,⁴⁴ than any other actor since it opened in 1821'.⁴⁵

In 1915 Charles de Montmollin La Trobe took a commission in the Hampshire Regiment, and served in France as Captain and Adjutant of the 2/7th Warwicks from 1916 to 1918. In 1917 he won the Military Cross (MC),

awarded to officers of the British Armed Forces in recognition of an act or acts of exemplary gallantry during active operations, and was mentioned in dispatches in 1918.⁴⁶

On demobilisation, he worked first as Stage Director for the 1919 production of *Romeo and Juliet* at the Lyric Theatre, before returning in April 1920 to the Haymarket Theatre as Stage Director for *Mary Rose* starring Fay Compton for whom J.M. Barrie had written the play. This was the theatre to which Captain Charles La Trobe devoted the rest of his career, being responsible for the successful staging there of over 100 productions up to 1946, including John Gielgud's repertory season on tour and at the Haymarket from 1943 to 1945. He 'ruled supreme'⁴⁷ as the Stage Director and Manager of numerous successful productions at the Haymarket between 1945 and 1960, including *Lady Windemere's Fan* (1945), the Royal Command Performance of *The Importance of Being Earnest* (1945), *The Second Mrs Tanqueray* (1950), *The Chalk Garden* (1957), *The Pleasure of His Company* (1959), and Terence Rattigan's *Ross* (1960).

He retired at the age of eighty, after the Haymarket's 1960 season, to his home in Colchester where he died in September 1967, aged eighty-eight. His funeral service was held in St Martin in the Fields on Trafalgar Square where, traditionally, most memorial services for theatrical personalities are held. William Darlington, drama critic for many years on the London *Daily Telegraph* newspaper, wrote of Charles La Trobe on his retirement from the theatre 'to live in the country':

For 62 years he has been connected with the theatre, 51 of them at the Haymarket... It can be said that Charles La Trobe was partly responsible for the fact that the Haymarket has been for half a century one of the best conducted theatres in the world.⁴⁸

In 1926, Charles de Montmollin La Trobe had married Evelyn Pullinger, an actress whose stage name was Evelyn Dane. She was born in London in 1901. Her mother, also Evelyn Pullinger, was born in 1868 in South Africa, daughter of a wine-growing family at the Cape, her parents moving to England during the Boer War. Evelyn Dane appeared in numerous London theatre productions during the 1920s and 1930s. She played at the Haymarket Theatre in 1924 and 1925, and it was at the Haymarket that she and Captain Charles met, probably at this time. She took the leading role in Frederick Lonsdale's *The Last of Mrs Cheyne* at the Regent in 1930, and featured in *Alibi*, a stage adaptation



The Old Priory, West Molesey, Surrey, c.1930
 Photograph courtesy Carlotta Blake

of Agatha Christie's novel *The Murder of Roger Ackroyd* at the Regent, also in 1930. She went on to appear in seventeen productions on the London stage between 1930 and 1939.⁴⁹ Evelyn La Trobe died in 1958.

Carlotta Evelyn de Montmollin La Trobe is the only child of Evelyn and Captain Charles La Trobe. She was born at the *Old Priory* at West Molesey in Surrey on 17 September 1928. The *Old Priory* was one of a number of beautiful manor houses on the outskirts of the picturesque village of West Molesey on the Thames, on the opposite bank from *Hampton Court Palace*. The *Old Priory* was compulsorily acquired from Captain La Trobe by the Molesey Council, along with other great houses of the district, and was demolished during the 1930s.⁵⁰ The family subsequently moved to Chiswick in West London to be nearer the West End for her father's work at the Haymarket Theatre. Carlotta recalls that she had a wonderful childhood:

I was never treated as a 'nursery child', but always part of the grown-up world. Our home was always full of family and friends, Swiss cousins, Spanish and Russian friends and, of course, people from the world of the theatre, music, art and literature.⁵¹

As a child, she spent five years at the ballet school founded by Anton Dolin, the principal male ballet star and choreographer of the period, which was run by the retired ballerina Lydia Kyasht: 'I was considered by Kyasht to be quite promising (apparently!), but Daddy felt it was an extremely tough way of life (and of course it is) – not only the glamorous aspect the public see'. This ballet training left her with the confidence to appear in public. Carlotta remembers that, at the Haymarket Theatre Charity Performances: 'I was useful when they needed someone to

present bouquets to VIPs! I remember the Princess Royal, the Duchess of Gloucester, and Queen Frederica of Greece. All the Royals loved the Haymarket, and over many decades, they came to know Daddy who always looked after them'.

During the 1930s, family holidays were taken on the South Coast, with friends coming and going. Her father would drive down on Saturday nights, and back Sunday night, staying at his club for the period. In 1938, he rented a house in West Sussex: 'When war was declared in September, my father gave up the Chiswick house, put everything in Harrods Depository, and took rooms near the Haymarket Theatre. Mummy joined the Women's Royal Naval Service – the WRENS.'

Carlotta was in West Sussex under the care of her grandmother, and apart from lessons with private tutors, made herself useful as 'the village runner', delivering wool to the knitters of socks for the forces and collecting them: 'I knew every single villager, and enjoyed it very much, being a very sociable creature' – much as she is today, with a charming and delightfully outgoing personality.

In 1943, the La Trobe family moved back to London to a flat in *Portman Mansions*, Chiltern Street, just a minute or two from Sherlock Holmes' famous Baker Street residence. Carlotta remembers that there was much sheet music by Christian Ignatius La Trobe (her great great-grandfather) at the *Portman Mansions*, as well as a number of La Trobe family portraits, including the now missing painting of Charles Joseph La Trobe wearing a velvet jacket. Carlotta took up her place at St Paul's Girls' School, but this was just in time to catch the second period of bombing in London. Captain La Trobe often slept at the theatre, and his wife came on

24-hour passes from the bombing in Ipswich in Suffolk, where she was stationed at *HMS Ganges* as a WREN, to the bombing on London.

In 1946, having matriculated, Carlotta attended the Triangle Secretarial College in Mayfair which steered its pupils into the Establishment, Westminster, Whitehall, publishing, Fleet Street and the BBC. At this time, Evelyn and Carlotta La Trobe were very close to their Swiss cousins Elisabeth de Blonay, the only surviving child of Agnes La Trobe de Salis, and her son Christian de Blonay who often visited London from Switzerland.

one and four branch offices responsible for local campaigning and canvassing. Her work involved speaking engagements, area and national political meetings, and organizing political weekend schools and lunches. Carlotta recalls:

During my time as Area Youth Organiser, my most cherished memory is of the first day of Ascot when the whole Department had repaired down there. I was left as the junior admin. person to 'look after the shop'. My secretary who was on the phones, put her head round the door, looking rather



Carlotta La Trobe as a child, c.1934
Photograph courtesy Carlotta Blake



Carlotta Blake, with sons David and Charles, 2013
Photograph courtesy Carlotta Blake

Her first job was at Broadcasting House where she spent three fascinating years: 'Into its Entrance Hall came everyone from Presidents, Prime Ministers, Royals and every leading figure in the Arts: drama, music, art and literature. I once had a short and delightful chat with Eleanor Roosevelt waiting for a lift!'

She then moved into the political arena for the Conservative Party, training in London constituencies and taking her examinations at Swinton College, Lord Swinton's house in Ripon, Yorkshire, loaned to the Conservative Party as a training and examination centre. Eventually, she was promoted to the role of Young Conservatives Organiser for the Home Counties North area which covered Essex and Middlesex. Her office in Palace Chambers opposite the House of Commons faced Big Ben: 'People used to phone me just to hear the chimes!'. Carlotta had about sixty constituencies to cover, each of which comprised between

flustered, saying: 'Mr Churchill is on the phone. He wants to speak to you'. He was lovely! ...

He had seen an article in one of the national papers about the various constituencies, and wanted further information... The next morning, I had a meeting with my chief and he had suggested to Mr Churchill that I could take on the work. I spent six months calling MPs, constituency officers and visiting constituencies, and wrote a final report on my evidence and conclusions. I was totally thrilled when Mr Churchill sent his congrats, saying it was 'very well written'!

During this time, Carlotta met Kenneth Blake at a Conservative Party conference in Wales. He was a Young Conservatives Organiser for Cumberland, Northumberland and Durham.

And, as they say, 'The rest is history!' They were married in 1955: 'My father threw a splendid champagne party at the Garrick Club, full of theatre and political friends. A lovely send off!'

Ken Blake was Parliamentary Visits Officer in the Ministry for Defence from 1955 to 1984. When he became a constituency agent, Carlotta was a great help in speaking and organizing whenever required. In due course, 'two lovely boys arrived, and were taken to meetings in their carry-cots'. Their elder son is Dr Charles (Charlie) La Trobe Graham Blake, a university teacher, who has two daughters. Charlie came to Melbourne in 2006 as the guest of the La Trobe Society for the unveiling of his great-great-grandfather's statue by sculptor Peter Corlett OAM, situated on the forecourt of the State Library Victoria. Charlie's striking resemblance to Sir Francis Grant's portrait of Charles Joseph is uncanny. Carlotta and Ken's second son, David Kenneth de Montmollin Blake, a theatre production manager, and his wife Jackie Alexander, Development Manager at the Theatre Royal, Brighton, have a daughter. It was over lunch at the Garrick Club that well-known actor, Donald Sinden, 'advised David to place Carlotta Addison's theatrical memorabilia in the Victoria and Albert Museum' which he did in 1980.⁵²

After Captain Charles La Trobe's death in 1967, the Haymarket Theatre enlisted Carlotta as an Executive Director, a role involving board meetings, all the first nights and charity performances.

Meanwhile, Kenneth Blake moved from politics into the Civil Service, and he was appointed Parliamentary Visits Officer to the Minister of Defence. It involved working with the All Party Defence Select Committee, managing the members' activities at home and abroad, and accompanying them on their travels, as well as arranging the reception of NATO official visits when ships came up the Thames to London. It was a job he loved until, after seven years in the role, Ken very suddenly and tragically died in 1984.

Carlotta summed up the situation after her husband's death:

Life goes on. So, kindly, I was still invited everywhere, and with Charlie heading for Oxford, and David in the West End theatre, we enjoyed a busy and good life.

I feel I have been incredibly lucky in the family into which I was born and the world in which I have lived.⁵³

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- 1 'Australia Births and Baptisms, 1792-1981,' database, FamilySearch. <https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:XTC5-MLX>; accessed 24 May 2016), Charles Joseph Latrobe in entry for Charles Albert Latrobe, 5 Feb 1846; citing FHL microfilm 993,956 (accessed 23 May 2016).
 - 2 Sophie La Trobe to Agnes La Trobe, 28 February 1851, Journals and letters of Agnes La Trobe, MS 14152 Australian Manuscripts Collection, State Library Victoria.
 - 3 For more detailed accounts of this journey, see John Botham, "'The Good Old Rajah": and those who sailed in her', *La Trobeana*, vol.14, no.2, July 2015, pp.31-42; and Margaret Bowman, 'Educating Agnes: Agnes La Trobe and two of her teachers', *La Trobeana*, vol.15, no.1, March 2016, pp.14-19.
 - 4 Sophie La Trobe to Agnes La Trobe, 28 February 1851, La Trobe Neuchâtel Archive, Australian Manuscripts Collection, State Library Victoria, MS13354, folders 27 and 28. Original archive held in the Fonds Petitpierre, Archives de l'Etat de Neuchâtel, Switzerland.
 - 5 *Ibid*, 29 January 1848.
 - 6 *Ibid*, 1 January 1849.
 - 7 *Ibid*, 15 December 1850.
 - 8 Charles Joseph La Trobe to Agnes La Trobe, Jolimont, Melbourne, 28 February 1852, La Trobe Neuchâtel Archive, Australian Manuscripts Collection, State Library Victoria, MS13354, folders 27 and 28.
 - 9 Charles Joseph La Trobe to Charlotte Pellet, 14 Hanover Street, London, 3 April 1855, Blake, L.J. (ed.) *Letters of Charles Joseph La Trobe*, Melbourne: Government Printer, 1975, p.50.
 - 10 Charles Joseph La Trobe to Charlotte Pellet, London, 20 February 1855. Collection Joy and Allen Harley.
 - 11 Charles Joseph La Trobe to David Charteris McArthur, Whitbourne Court, Worcester, 11 May 1860, Blake, L.J. (ed.), p.56.
 - 12 'Benjamin Baker, engineer', Wikipedia (accessed 26 May 2016).
 - 13 Carlotta La Trobe Blake to Dianne Reilly, in conversation, 2013.
 - 14 1901 England Census, Fulham, London, 164 Baron's Court, Fulham, PRO London RG 13/63, Folio 14, p.25: 'Charles Albert La Trobe, Consulting Engineer'.
 - 15 Warren Horton, Director-General, National Library of Australia, in foreword to *The Lycett Album: Drawings of Aborigines and Australian Scenery*, commentary by Jeanette Hoorn, Canberra: National Library of Australia, 1990, p.vii.
 - 16 *Ibid*.
 - 17 Point Theatre [London?], 'Young Lochinvar' program. Carlotta Addison Scrapbooks, 1864-1899, 2 vols. Victoria and Albert Museum Theatre and Performance Collections, London, GB 71 THM/370. This material was received in 1980 via Sir Donald Sinden, on behalf of David Blake, Carlotta Addison's great-grandson.
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- 18 James Graham to Charles Joseph La Trobe, 20 April 1874, Graham Brothers Private Letter Books, 22 January 1874 – 6 February 1879, University of Melbourne Archives, 1961.0014.
- 19 Ibid, 19 May 1974.
- 20 Graham Brothers Sundry Papers A/C, C A La Trobe, 1874, La Trobe Letters boxes, Box 1, University of Melbourne Archives, 1961.0014.
- 21 James Graham to Charles Joseph La Trobe, 8 September 1874.
- 22 Ibid, 2 December 1874.
- 23 *Leader*, Melbourne, 27 February 1875, p.13.
- 24 James Graham to Charles Joseph La Trobe, 20 March 1875.
- 25 Frederick W. Groves was one of Charles Joseph La Trobe's English executors, the other being the Reverend Henry Pigon.
- 26 James Graham to Rose La Trobe, 29 November 1876, Graham Brothers Private Letterbook No.8, p.368. University of Melbourne Archives, 1961.0014.
- 27 Charles Joseph La Trobe to James Graham 24 October 1865.
- 28 *Figaro*, 16 September 1876. News clipping in possession of Carlotta Blake.
- 29 Carlotta Addison Scrapbooks.
- 30 *New York Times*, 8 March 1898. Henry Mader Pitt, a well-known actor, descended from a long line of professional actors, his father being the English actor Charles Dibdin Pitt. With a successful career in England and America behind him, Henry Mader Pitt committed suicide in New York on 7 March 1898. His wife was the noted actress Fanny Addison, sister of Carlotta Addison.
- 31 Carlotta Addison Scrapbooks.
- 32 Carlotta Blake to Dianne Reilly, in conversation, 17 April 2016.
- 33 Carlotta Addison Scrapbooks. Unidentified newspaper clipping 'Miss Carlotta Addison at Home'. No date.
- 34 'Scala Theatre', Wikipedia (accessed 26 May 2016). The Scala Theatre was sited in Charlotte Street off the Tottenham Court Road. Opened in 1772, it was destroyed by fire in 1969. From 1865 to 1882, the theatre was known as the Prince of Wales's Theatre.
- 35 *Under the Clock: a weekly journal for playgoers*, no date, p.135. News clipping in the possession of Carlotta Blake.
- 36 Ibid.
- 37 Ibid.
- 38 *The Hornet*, January 1873, 'My Owl. The Globe.' News clipping in the possession of Carlotta Blake.
- 39 *Who was Who in the Theatre*, 4 vols, Detroit, Michigan: Gale Research, 1972, vol.1, pp.11-12.
- 40 Carlotta Addison, 'A little Stage Reality', *Era Almanac* 1901, p.27, (Carlotta Addison Scrapbooks).
- 41 Ellen Terry to Bernard Shaw, 26 March 1897. *Ellen Terry and Bernard Shaw: a correspondence*, ed. Christopher St John, London: Constable, 1931.
- 42 *Woman's Life*, July 1901. News clipping in the possession of Carlotta Blake.
- 43 *Essex County Standard*, 15 September 1967, p.5. News clipping in the possession of Carlotta Blake.
- 44 The Theatre Royal Haymarket is popularly known as the Haymarket Theatre.
- 45 Donald Sinden, *A Touch of the Memoirs*, London: Hodder & Stoughton, 1982, p.137.
- 46 'Charles La Trobe', *Who's Who in the Theatre*, London: Pitman, 1965.
- 47 Donald Sinden, p.129.
- 48 William Darlington, Theatre Critic, *Daily Telegraph and Morning Post*, 10 October 1960.
- 49 J.P. Wearing, *The London Stage 1930-1939: A calendar of Productions, Performer s and Personnel*, 2nd ed. New York: Rowman and Littlefeld, 2014.
- 50 Rowland G.M. Baker, *The Book of Molesey*, Barracuda: 1986, Chapter 'Many mansions' (www.moleseyhistory.co.uk, accessed 15 March 2016).
- 51 'Carlotta's Stories', memoirs of Carlotta Blake to Dianne Reilly, 25 April 2016, which is the source of subsequent quotations.
- 52 Carlotta Addison Scrapbooks.
- 53 'Carlotta's Stories'.

La Trobe's Gold Nugget

By John Barnes

John Barnes is Emeritus Professor of English at La Trobe University. His interest in La Trobe has a personal aspect, as his great-grandmother came from a Swiss family which emigrated to Victoria from Neuchâtel in 1854. John is a long-time member of the La Trobe Society, and was formerly on its Committee. Research for his newly-completed manuscript of a biography of La Trobe allows him to provide in this article further information and context about the nugget La Trobe acquired in 1853 and sold five years later.

‘Victoria has produced some superb gold specimens, probably none better than the beautiful *La Trobe* nugget, a large cluster of gold crystals, in the Natural History Museum, London’, wrote Dermot A. Henry in 2007.¹ That was the year in which the nugget went on display in The Vault of the Museum, which presents a selection of minerals of special interest. According to the Museum—which must have got its information from La Trobe himself—the nugget was found in the presence of the Lieutenant-Governor at Mount McIvor on 1 May 1853.

In reporting the ‘rediscovery’ of La Trobe’s nugget, Susan Priestley² drew attention to La Trobe’s ‘somewhat cryptic’ diary note for 30 April 1853, which begins: ‘Early off to McIvor 6-7 m[iles] off. The nugget (James McIntyre). The gold-field not arranged yet.’³ Her surmise that James McIntyre was the discoverer of the nugget seems most likely; but she is unable

as yet to establish which of the several bearers of that name in Victoria at that time made the discovery.

La Trobe had reached the McIvor diggings on the second last day of a tour of the goldfields, which began at Ballarat and went as far north as the Korong diggings (near what is now Wedderburn). On the way back to Bendigo on 27 April 1853, he noted: ‘[Through the] Gap to McIntyre’s’. This appears to be a reference to diggings on the run of Alexander and James McIntyre, but one cannot say whether it is in any way relevant to his acquisition of the nugget.

There had been prospecting in the McIvor area when La Trobe first went there about a year earlier, but by the time of this second visit the number of prospectors was growing rapidly, as reports spread of the rich finds being made. In a despatch to the Colonial Secretary, written immediately after his return to Melbourne, La Trobe estimated that there were 1,000 already

at McIvor, and reported on the administrative arrangements he had made following his visit. His report of what was happening at McIvor ended with a personal observation: 'I may mention that the specimens of gold brought down from these workings, some of from 100 to 200 ounces in weight, are equal in value and beauty to any hitherto discovered'.⁴

find it both advantageous & agreeable, to be in a position to associate, when occasion offers, with clever men, however stupid I may feel myself.⁷ Murray and their mutual friend William Brockedon proposed La Trobe for membership of the Athenaeum Club, and he was admitted on 27 March 1855 under the rule that allowed the committee to elect annually nine members



Unknown photographer
The Latrobe nugget
Natural History Museum, London



Julius Hamel, 1822?-1894, lithographer
McIvor diggings, July 26, 1853 (Langley, Hawkes & Foster's Stores)
Pictures Collection, State Library Victoria, H18123
After a drawing by Edward La Trobe Bateman

The 'Latrobe Nugget', as it is known at the Museum, is not on the official list of gold nuggets found in Victoria,⁵ nor are there any details on record of the transaction by which La Trobe came to own it. However, although there is no mention of the nugget in the surviving personal correspondence of La Trobe in Australia, one can be certain that this specimen was passed around and discussed with friends in Melbourne.

who were 'eminent persons in arts, science or literature or for public services'.⁸

La Trobe's keen interest in geology, second only to his enthusiasm for botany, can be seen in some of his despatches, where he appears to be as much a travel writer as a bureaucrat. In the memorable despatch of 10 October 1851, describing the impact of the gold rushes, he begins by describing gold-bearing country and details the different characteristics of the ore that is being mined.⁶ It is not surprising that, on the day that he visited the McIvor diggings, when he had plenty of administrative details to attend to, he seized the opportunity to acquire a beautiful nugget of a rare crystalline formation.

When La Trobe eventually returned to England in 1854 after what he regarded as his 'exile' in Australia, he relished the opportunity to make the acquaintance of 'clever men', such as the geologist Sir Roderic Murchison and botanists Sir William Hooker and Robert Brown. Murray's influence was helpful in gaining him admission not only to the Athenaeum but also to the Geographical Society (in which Murchison was a leading figure): 'I thank you & Sir Roderic whom I had the pleasure to stumble on in Kew Gardens the other day, for your honorable intentions with regard to me', he wrote to Murray less than three weeks after he reached London.⁹ It is possible that the Latrobe Nugget was the subject of some discussion in the Society, of which he became a member in January 1855.¹⁰

At the end of 1852 La Trobe had submitted his resignation to the Colonial Office: his wife and children were about to leave the colony, and he was already thinking about the life he might expect to have back in Europe. A few months after the McIvor visit he wrote to his friend, publisher John Murray III, asking him whether he would put him up for membership of a London club: 'It has struck me that I should

La Trobe was never more than an amateur but, as he once confided to his botanist friend in Tasmania, R.C. Gunn, the study of natural history was much more to his 'natural disposition' than his duties as a colonial official, and during his years in Australia he was frustrated that he had so little time for intellectual pursuits.¹¹ Back in London the ex-Governor did have time to air his theories about the Australian continent and discuss his observations on the goldfields with a close friend like John Murray, who had

studied geology at Edinburgh University. The only known reference in his papers to the gold specimen that he obtained at McIvor is in a letter to Murray in March 1856, asking him ‘to send the “nugget” to my brother, 27 Ely Place in the course of this week, as I may bring it into Kent to show one or two learned acquaint[ances]’.¹²

While a colonial official, La Trobe collected specimens of plants and minerals, as he had done when a traveller. ‘The nugget’ was probably the most interesting, and certainly the most valuable of the specimens that he brought back with him to Europe. Whatever the circumstances that caused him to sell it to the Museum of Natural History in 1858, by that action he ensured that it would be preserved and available to researchers. When the Professor of Geology and Mineralogy at the University of Sydney, Archibald Liversidge, wrote his *Minerals of New South Wales*, first published in 1876, he appears not to have known of the existence of the Latrobe Nugget, but was enthusiastic about a similar nugget in the Museum of Science and Art at Edinburgh. He pointed out that such specimens are ‘extremely scarce, and even in the early days of the gold discoveries they were never abundant’.¹³

The discovery of gold in Victoria presented a great challenge to La Trobe, and he once exclaimed to Deas Thomson in Sydney: ‘I would to God that not a grain had ever been found on your side and ours’.¹⁴ Most of the public who now flock to the Museum of Natural History in very large numbers probably know little or nothing about La Trobe; but by a quirk of history he is likely to be best remembered—in Britain at least—for a gold nugget that bears his name.

1 Dermot A. Henry, ‘Classic Australian Minerals’, *Rocks and Minerals*, vol.82, 2007, pp.18–19.

2 Susan Priestley, ‘Rediscovery of the Latrobe Nugget’, *La Trobeana*, vol.12, no.3, November 2013, pp.36–37.

3 *Charles Joseph La Trobe: Australian Notes 1839–1854*, [diaries, with introduction and notes by Dianne Reilly], Yarra Glen, Vic.: Tarcoola Press, in association with State Library of Victoria and Boz Publishing, 2006. (McIvor Creek was the original name of the town of Heathcote.)

4 La Trobe to the Duke of Newcastle, 3 May 1853, House of Commons Parliamentary Papers, 1854, no.1719, p.83 (online image page 91).

5 *List of Nuggets found in Victoria*, Melbourne: Department of Mines, 1912.

6 La Trobe to Earl Grey, 10 October 1851, House of Commons Parliamentary Papers, 1852, no.1508, p.42 (online image page 132).

7 La Trobe to John Murray III, 25 July 1853, Murray Archive, National Library of Scotland.

8 Date from Dianne Reilly Drury, *La Trobe: the making of a governor*, Melbourne: Melbourne University Press, 2006, p.254.

9 La Trobe to John Murray III, 4 August 1854.

10 *Times*, London, 10 January 1855, p.10.

11 La Trobe to R. C. Gunn, 6 April 1853, Mitchell Library, State Library of New South Wales.

12 La Trobe to Murray, 10 March 1856.

13 Archibald Liversidge, *Minerals of New South Wales*, 3rd ed., London: Trubner, 1888, p.4.

14 La Trobe to E. Deas Thomson, 25 June 1852, Mitchell Library, State Library of New South Wales.

Charles Joseph La Trobe in Neuchâtel: Montmirail to Jolimont

By Daryl Ross

Daryl Ross is a retired business executive and former export consultant. His Swiss great-grandfather, Louis Ernest Leuba, was one of a number of enterprising young Swiss encouraged by C J La Trobe and his Neuchâtel Swiss wife, Sophie, née Montmollin, to settle in Victoria. Daryl's interest in the family associations with Neuchâtel, which he has visited many times, triggered his interest in the La Trobe Society when it was first formed. Daryl is currently Vice-President of the C J La Trobe Society.

It had been expected that Charles Joseph La Trobe might follow the example of his grandfather, his father and his brother into the Moravian church when he completed his formal education. He had received the classical Moravian education, initially at Fulneck School near Leeds and subsequently at Fairfield Boys Boarding School, a Moravian institution near Manchester. He worked as a teacher in this same school for a period after completing his formal studies. Unsure of a firm vocation, no doubt unsettled by the death of his mother earlier that year, he set out alone in October 1824 to learn something of the wider world.¹ Today, graduates might refer to this as a gap year; however, he did not return to England until 1827.

As he described in his *Alpenstock* travelogue, published at the end of that period, he centred himself in the French-speaking Canton of Neuchâtel in Switzerland where the Moravians were well represented, particularly through a residential educational institution for girls known as Montmirail. His choice of Neuchâtel was undoubtedly influenced by the religious history and function of this institution, established on a farming estate near the town in 1766.²

I can picture him standing on the foreshore of the Lake Neuchâtel gazing in awe at

the westerly sun sparkling on the lake's clear blue waters as it set behind the Jura peaks.

In *Alpenstock* he wrote: 'The sun was just sinking towards the western horizon throwing his beams horizontally over the whole length of the wide sheet of water... behind, rose the long steep and forested ridge of the Jura; white walled farm houses on the heights, glistening against the blue sky'.³ At the very same age but 130 years later, I too, first looked from that lakeside at the townscape where my maternal grandparents were born, stunned by the unfamiliar nature of the terrain and the *European-ness* of the town's architecture.

In his *Alpenstock*, La Trobe explained that he rented a room fourteen feet (4.3 metres) square with a view looking south across the lake to: '...one unbroken and widely extended chain of mountains... ridge above ridge, peak above peak, their snows glowing with the red hue of an autumnal sun, which every moment rendered more intense and more beautiful'.⁴ The objective of this trip, like that of a latter-day vagabond, was to explore the hills and dales, towns and villages of the Swiss countryside during the spring, summer and autumn of 1825, with nothing more than a backpack and a walking stick, his alpenstock. Then, he would return in October to spend the winter in Neuchâtel and continue his studies.⁵



Gabriel Lory, 1784-1846, artist
Johann Hurlimann, 1793-1850, engraver
Intérieur de l'établissement de Montmirail, à l'heure de la récréation des Pensionnaires, c.1832
 Aquatint
 Schweizerische Nationalbibliothek, GS-GUGE-LORY-C-30

La Trobe passed a very cold, wet winter in 1825-6 while actively engaging in the life of a townsman. Local churches and church services interested him, not the least obviously those of the Moravian faith:

About five miles distant from Neuchâtel, on the route to Berne, lies the Chateau of Montmirail, formerly the property of a branch of the noble family of de Watteville. It has since been transferred to the church of the United Brethren (or Moravians) who have here a large and flourishing establishment for the education of females.⁶

He explained that when there is no other Moravian community in an area, the practising members conform with the local parish churches principally Lutheran, however: '... there is always a clergyman of the Brethren's Church resident in the château, who superintends the institution, and instructs the young people in the doctrines and practice of Christianity'.⁷

The Principal of Montmirail at the time was Pastor Veerbek, whose wife Dorothy was related to the La Trobe family by marriage. La Trobe seemed careful to play down his personal connection with the Brethren Church when writing in *Alpenstock*, but he expressed his



Raymond Berthoud, photographer
Montmirail Château with 18th century
clock-tower, 2015
 This building is to be seen in the background of the above picture

pleasure in admiring the ambience of Montmirail that he obviously frequented. He later admitted to spending his Sunday afternoons there when he comments: '...the broad head of Mont Blanc gleaming like a watchtower above the southern horizon... later, when the full round moon rising over the *Jolimont* and throwing its calm light upon the extremity of the lake, affords me the promise of a cheerful road homewards'.⁸ He could not have realised the significance of this reference to *Jolimont* in his future life. La Trobe obviously enjoyed more than pleasant Sunday

afternoon sojourns at Montmirail: ‘The first sensation that pervades my mind as I issue from the hospitable gateway at Montmirail, early on the morning of 18th of June... was that of true light-hearted boyish exultation’.⁹

families. However, the local Neuchâtel clergy resented the intrusion and the Moravian settlement was abandoned, to be resettled in Frankfurt. In 1748, the property was restored to the Watteville family.¹³



Daryl Ross, photographer
View of Mt Blanc at sunset, 2015
 As La Trobe would see it on his walk
 back to Neuchâtel from Montmirail



Daryl Ross, photographer
View of Lake Bièvre from Jolimont, 2015

In the Middle Ages, as in most European countries, Swiss land ownership was an aristocratic privilege. Much of the land encompassing Neuchâtel was under the domination of the French. In the fifteenth century, French king Henry II of Orléans was also Prince of Neuchâtel. In 1618 he ennobled one of his officers, Abraham de Tribolet, as Count of Thielle, who established a farming property bordering on the eastern end of Lake Neuchâtel and stretching east to the Lake Bièvre on which he built a castle-like residence.¹⁰ With changing fortunes, the Principality of Neuchâtel became part of Prussia which historically supported Protestantism’s diverse religious influences including the Moravian and Bohemian brotherhood.¹¹ In 1722, the Saxon Count Nicholas Ludwig von Zinzendorf established the community of Herrnhut on his Saxony estate as a haven for many Moravian refugees. He encouraged them to keep the discipline of the *Unitas Fratrum* (United Brethren) and gave them the missionary vision to take the gospel to the far corners of the globe. August 13, 1727, marked the culmination of a great spiritual renewal for the Moravian Church in Herrnhut, and in 1732 the first missionaries were sent to the West Indies.¹²

In 1739, however, Count Nikolas was expelled from his Saxony domain for what appeared to the local authorities to be over-zealous religious activities. He came to Montmirail, now owned by the Watteville family, with the intention of re-establishing his Moravian community refuge including displaced Huguenots. By 1742 the Moravian community was established with about thirty-four member

The Moravian missionary influence, however, was strengthening throughout northern Europe and schools were being established in various countries. In 1766 a new residential school for girls was established at Montmirail, building up to 150 students and teachers during the nineteenth century. Apart from languages, religion and good manners, girls were instructed in all aspects of home management. This concept of a residential school for girls continued until the end of World War II. In modern times the property was acquired by the Don Camillo Community, equipped with modernised facilities and established as a refuge and respite for single and distressed families. The property is self-supporting and the farming activities of the property are leased out.¹⁴

La Trobe returned to England in the spring of 1827 after two-and-half years wandering in the Swiss and Italian mountains and spending three winters sheltering in the city of Neuchâtel itself. *Alpenstock* was published in 1829 but, given the author’s sense of discretion, he tells us little about those with whom he fraternised during these sojourns nor of an alleged role as a long-term tutor to the Pourtalès children.¹⁵ The tutor to the Pourtalès sons from 1819 to 1838 was Pastor Cesar-Henri Monvert, a distinguished academic who subsequently became professor of sacred literature at the Neuchâtel Academy; he was also a caricaturist of note, married to a local artist Julie Droz.¹⁶ As the overseer of the Pourtalès boys’ education, Monvert would have been free to recommend specialist tutors for specific subjects. With their common interest of religious text, La Trobe could easily have become acquainted with Monvert who could well have



Daryl Ross, photographer
View of Jolimont from Montmirail, 2015

recommended La Trobe as an appropriately qualified English language tutor for his charges.

Given the Moravian church influence on his upbringing and education in England, it was unlikely that La Trobe would have moved in the aristocratic circles in his home country equivalent to those that he experienced in Neuchâtel. The Pourtalès, Montmollin, Pury and Meuron families were all interrelated, wealthy and ennobled families with not only impressive town mansions in Neuchâtel itself* but with commercial, banking and property interests throughout Europe and abroad; they were also represented in Cantonal and National politics and in the military.¹⁷ In Switzerland the young Charles Joseph La Trobe was moving in a prestigious class.

In England, however, La Trobe was still unsuccessful in gaining a patronage position through his family connections. He made a return visit to Neuchâtel in November 1829 and his second travelogue *The Pedestrian*, covering his summer of 1830 touring in Italy, was published in 1832.¹⁸ His social acceptability in Neuchâtel obviously extended beyond Montmirail and even to the Erlenbach parsonage in nearby Simmental. Here he developed a friendship with Pastor Studer, based not only on their mutual interest in botany, but on the spiritual effect of the mountain environment. In *Alpenstock*, he writes:

Who would not rejoice to be reminded of his dependence upon the bounty, providence and mercy of God; to feel, when far away from the crush and

trammels of a state of society where man is too often tempted to forget it, that he is a creature dependent upon his Creator, and upon Him alone, for guidance and direction...?¹⁹

La Trobe's publications were directed towards the English market but were, or rather could have been, of considerable interest to a Swiss audience; there is however, no evidence that they were ever published in other than the English language. Later, shortly after his arrival in Australia, he arranged to send samples of uniquely Australian flora and fauna to his contacts at the Neuchâtel Museum of Natural History. He received a letter of thanks from the Museum's director, for the 'rare and precious objects', dated 2 February 1842, sent to him in Melbourne.²⁰

The fact that he then returned to England in 1830, accompanied by the nineteen-year-old Albert de Pourtalès, lead to his close personal correspondence with Albert's mother, the Comtesse de Pourtalès, herself, a former lady-in-waiting to the Empress Joséphine. Like the La Trobes, the Pourtalès family was of Huguenot origin.²¹ After the downfall of Napoleon, the principality of Neuchâtel reverted to Prussian control. Count Frédéric de Pourtalès, being married to a French noblewoman and he being a member of the French royal household, was subsequently imprisoned. On his release and return to Neuchâtel, he was appointed to the staff of the Prince of Neuchâtel, who was now Prussian, and allowed to retain his title, his lands and honours.²²

La Trobe was attracted to Sophie de Montmollin, Albert's cousin, a liaison apparently approved of, possibly fostered by the Pourtalès, at the time when his prospects were not strong. La Trobe's closeness to the Pourtalès family was cemented when he was invited in 1831 to accompany Albert, as a companion and mentor, on an extended visit to the United States, Canada and Mexico, all expenses paid.²³

Switzerland on 16 September 1835. The Comte and Comtesse Pourtalès were sympathetic to the young couple and offered the use of their country estate *Jolimont* as a peaceful retreat for their honeymoon.²⁵

Jolimont is an elevated plateau overlooking Lake Biemme to the north and west to Montmirail and Lake Neuchâtel. Originally it would have

**Daryl Ross, photographer
Jolimont residence, front, 2015**



**Daryl Ross, photographer
Jolimont residence, southerly aspect, 2015**

On returning from the Americas in July 1834, La Trobe went directly to London when their ship docked at Le Havre, to be with his ailing father. He returned to Neuchâtel the following summer after publishing his North American travelogues. Undoubtedly concerned for his own impecunious status and with no government patronage, his only option appeared to be teaching or tutoring private students. He seriously discussed with the Countess the option of staying permanently in Switzerland. His journal entries of the period indicate his attraction to Sophie de Montmollin, the Pourtalès niece but also his hesitancy to formalise his suit.²⁴

Nevertheless, he pursued his commitment anxiously arranging a formal meeting with Sophie's father Frédéric-Auguste de Montmollin. A few days later his diary records the single word 'Approved'; he had been accepted. The couple married at the British Consulate in Berne,

formed a boundary for the Thielle region farmed by Abraham de Tribolet. Today, the hilltop farm where the newly weds honeymooned is leased but owned by another aristocratic Neuchâtel family, whose patron Guillaume de Pury is resident in the Yarra Valley. In 1852 two of the Pury brothers, Samuel and Frederic-Guillaume, also cousins of Sophie's, arrived in Melbourne and took up land in the Yarra Valley. Their descendants, on their Yeringberg winery property, have farmed there continuously since then.²⁶

The plateau, with its commanding view, has evidence of Roman fortifications and, in more recent excavations, Bronze Age burial tombs dating to the 2nd millennium BCE were uncovered.²⁷ La Trobe would have been fascinated by such discoveries. We can imagine Charles and Sophie, standing hand in hand surveying that view in the evening light,



Emile Chiffelle,
photographer
Neuchâtel, Place des
Halles, c.1900

Montmollin residence
 on left.

Agnes de Salis, née
 La Trobe, to Rose
 Amiet, 6 July 1900.
 Dot on first floor
 middle left marks the
 room where Agnes was
 born 1837.

Collection:
 Mrs Joy Harley

*Dear Rose
 Neuchâtel. Place des Halles July 6th 1900. — Just a little
 reminder, with good wishes. The house behind
 the tree is the Montmollin house, & the black dot marks the room where I was born.
 Mother Charles & Rose Amiet are paying us a visit. Your affec Agnes de Salis*



Charles Joseph La Trobe,
1801-1875, artist
Cerlier, 1854
 Pencil on paper
 Collection: National Trust
 of Australia (Victoria)
 Deposited on long-term loan
 in the Pictures Collection,
 State Library Victoria

discussing their future together. Was it here that they decided to call their future home *Jolimont* as a lifelong reminder of this nuptial bliss?

The couple then settled in an apartment of the Montmollin town residence in the busy market square called Place des Halles.²⁸ Almost out of the blue but more than a year after their marriage, La Trobe received an offer from the Colonial Office to undertake a mission to the British West Indies to inspect the missionary education facilities provided for newly liberated slaves and to report to the Colonial Office. These facilities were being operated with the financial support of a British parliamentary grant. This offer changed everything. Sophie, however, was pregnant at the time so that it meant a long separation, nearly eighteen

months. Leaving Sophie in the care of her Swiss family was the best possible option, giving him the ultimate security necessary to complete his task effectively and efficiently, which of course he did. Their first child Agnes Louisa was born only six weeks after his departure. A postcard depicting this market place, written by Agnes in 1900 to her friend Rose Amiet in Australia, identifies the house on the marketplace and the room where she was born.★★

The first of the La Trobe's three reports for the Colonial Office was tabled in the House of Commons in February 1838.²⁹ His reports were well received and ultimately influenced his appointment as Superintendent of the Port Phillip District in 1839. Previous experience in the West Indies became a stepping stone for

three subsequent Governors of Victoria namely, Sir Henry Barkly, Sir Charles Darling and Charles Manners-Sutton, Viscount Canterbury.³⁰

La Trobe visited Neuchâtel shortly after he returned from Australia in 1854. This would have been a sad visit to pay homage to his

deceased wife and to re-unite with his children, then in the care of their aunt, Sophie's widowed sister Rose. The sentimental visit to *Jolimont* was evident from the sketch he did, dated 1854 of the château of Cerlier overlooking the Lake Bienne. So much had changed in his fifteen years 'exile' in the antipodes.³¹

Notes

- * In La Trobe's time at Neuchâtel, the nearby Lakes Morat and Bienne were at different levels to the Lake Neuchâtel. In 1857 a program was introduced to interconnect and equalise the level of all three lakes by a series of communication canals. Work only started in 1868 and was completed in 1875. The net effect on the Lake of Neuchâtel was to lower the water level approximately 2.5 metres. This moved the shore line out, up to 500 metres in some places, providing new land for infrastructure and building. As a consequence, the older lakeside properties like those of the Montmollin and Pourtalès families were no longer on the lakeside. (Matthias Nast, *Terres du lac: l'histoire de la correction des eaux du Jura*, Nidau: Verein Schlossmuseum Nidau, 2006)
- ** This postcard, sent from Neuchâtel in 1900, is evidence of the life-long friendship that Agnes had with Rose, the daughter of La Trobe's Swiss housekeeper and companion to Sophie La Trobe, Mme Charlotte Pellet. Agnes was eight years old in 1845 when she returned to live in Neuchâtel with the Montmollin family and further her education. The girls never saw each other again but maintained a correspondence. In 1854, as La Trobe was preparing to return to Europe, Rose age seventeen, married Frederick Amiet, a Swiss vigneron immigrant; their descendants live on in Australia.

Endnotes

- 1 Dianne Reilly Drury, *La Trobe: the making of a governor*, Melbourne: Melbourne University Press, 2006, pp.32-36.
- 2 John Barnes, 'Charles La Trobe in Neuchâtel: a research report', *The La Trobe Journal*, no.88, December 2011, pp.100-101.
- 3 Charles Joseph La Trobe, *The Alpenstock: or, sketches of Swiss scenery and manners, 1825-1826*. London: R. B. Seeley & W. Burnside, 1829, p.2.
- 4 *Ibid*, pp.2-3.
- 5 www.montmirail.ch/index.php/fr/historie (accessed 18 January 2016)
- 6 *The Alpenstock*, p.193.
- 7 *Ibid*.
- 8 *Ibid*, p.194.
- 9 *Ibid*, p.213.
- 10 www.montmirail.ch/index.php/fr/historie
- 11 *Ibid*.
- 12 *Ibid*.
- 13 *Ibid*.
- 14 *Ibid*.
- 15 Jacques Petitpierre, 'Les deux hymens neuchâtoise du premier gouverneur de l'état de Victoria', in the author's *Patrie Neuchâtoise*, Neuchâtel: Messeiller, 1955, vol.4, p.135. (<http://www.lermitage.ch/LaTrobe.pdf>)
- 16 Michel Schlup, *Biographies Neuchâtoises*, Hauterive: Attinger, 1998, vol.2, pp.217-219.
- 17 Schlup, *Biographies Neuchâtoises*, vol. 2.
- 18 Charles Joseph La Trobe, *The Pedestrian: a summer's ramble in the Tyrol*, London: R. B. Seeley & W. Burnside, 1932.
- 19 *The Alpenstock*, 2nd edition, 1830, pp.69-70.
- 20 Petitpierre, p.134.
- 21 John Barnes, 'Hunting the Buffalo with Washington Irving: La Trobe as traveller and writer', *The La Trobe Journal*, no.71, autumn 2003, p.46.
- 22 *Ibid*, p.48.
- 23 *Ibid*, p.61.
- 24 Reilly Drury, p.105.
- 25 *Ibid*.
- 26 Raymond Henderson, *From Jolimont to Yering*, Kilsyth, Vic.: Roundabout Publishing, 2006, p.93.
- 27 Evard Maurice, *Histoire du Canton de Neuchâtel*, Neuchâtel: Office du Matériel scolaire, 1998 (Atrium, Histoire du Canton de Neuchâtel, La Néolithique, <http://www.yrub.com/histoire/hne02.htm>, accessed 9 March 2016).
- 28 John Barnes, 'Hunting the Buffalo with Washington Irving', p.63.
- 29 Charles Joseph La Trobe, *Report on Negro Education, Jamaica*, 19 October 1837. House of Commons Parliamentary Papers, 1837-38, No.113.
- 30 Dianne Reilly, 'The Creation of a Civil Servant; La Trobe in the West Indies', *The La Trobe Journal*, no.71, autumn 2003, p.84.
- 31 Exile was a term that La Trobe used when writing to his friends, e.g. John Murray in Britain and Ronald Campbell Gunn in Tasmania.

Edward Jones Brewster: La Trobe's 'bungling lawyer'

By Robert Christie

Robert trained as a secondary teacher and worked at Hampton High School in the 1970s. He moved to Dargo in 1981 for business reasons and has since written a number of books on the Gippsland goldfields. He served as a Councillor with the Shire of Avon and later on the Wellington Shire Economic Development Board. Having owned hotels in the High Country at Wood's Point, Dargo and Briagolong, he returned to teaching in 2002 as a Principal, relinquishing that position in 2015 after seven years at Briagolong Primary School. He is a distant relative of Edward Jones Brewster.

The penal colony of New South Wales had been established for less than fifty years when John Batman initiated settlement in the Port Phillip area in 1835. Once it was determined that the Port Phillip District was to be administered from Sydney, Governor Sir Richard Bourke sent Captain William Lonsdale to Port Phillip as police magistrate in September 1836. After a four-week visit in the following March, Bourke directed that a town be laid out on the Yarra and named Melbourne, and another at the head of the bay to be named Williamstown. Robert Hoddle, whom Bourke had brought with him, headed the survey party and superintended the ensuing land sales.¹

A census conducted at Port Phillip in September 1838 revealed a population of 2,278 persons exclusive of military and government gangs, close to 70 per cent of whom were male.² This growth prompted the need for a greater degree of local government, which led to the appointment of Charles Joseph La Trobe as Superintendent. He arrived in Sydney from London in July 1839 and after taking advice from Bourke's replacement, Sir George Gipps, and other government officials, landed at Melbourne with his wife and young daughter on 3 October.

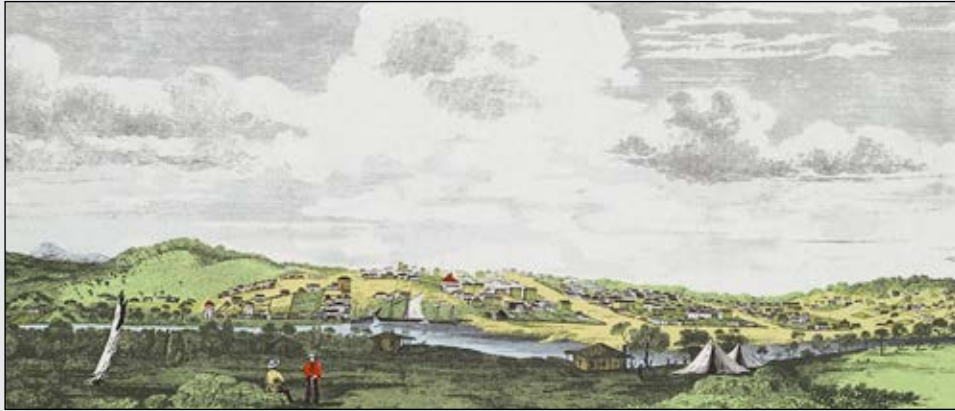
By then, some extension of local government was in place. A Court of Quarter

Sessions, which could hear criminal offences of a lesser nature, and with a small appellate jurisdiction from the police courts, had been operating since May 1839. It was chaired by Edward Jones Brewster, a newly-arrived Irish barrister. Brewster was from a wealthy and distinguished Irish family. His uncle, Abraham Brewster, was a lawyer and powerful speaker, well connected in government circles who rose from the position of legal advisor to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland to Lord Chancellor in 1866.³ Edward Jones Brewster was born in Dublin in 1812, entered Trinity College in November 1830 and obtained a BA in the spring of 1835. He was called to the Irish Bar in 1837, acquiring his first cases through his uncle. Despite such backing, Edward could see that his future in Ireland would be limited and that there were greater opportunities to be had half-way round the world in the penal colony of New South Wales.⁴

Brewster set sail on the barque *Alfred* in September 1838, armed with letters of introduction to the Attorney General of New South Wales, John Hubert Plunkett, who was a Dublin friend of his uncle, and from Tory leader, the Earl of Derby, to Governor Sir George Gipps.⁵ The *Alfred* carried passengers and freight. As a man of means, Brewster purchased a cabin passage, at a cost of between £75 and £125, which entitled him to 'the choicest fresh

provisions, wines, beers etc. during the whole voyage'. Moreover, cabin passengers were 'perfectly at liberty to consume what they please; there is no other check on them in this respect than what gentlemanly feeling and the rules of good society dictate.'⁶

'The official position of Brewster cannot be considered to harmonise with the social position he and his partner in business Carrington have assumed in the community'.¹⁰ It is interesting to note that Brewster made some of his earliest land purchases in 1839 possibly with the assistance



**John Adamson, artist, J. Carmichael, engraver
Melbourne from the South Side of the Yarra Yarra 1839 [1971]**

Facsimile of engraving

Pictures Collection, State Library Victoria, H35341

Lower section of facsimile noting landmarks is not reproduced

When the *Alfred* arrived in Sydney in January 1839, *The Sydney Monitor* of 17 January commented, 'the passengers are a very respectable looking class and in the best possible health'. Brewster himself recalled in later life, 'Upon landing, the city with its streets and buildings, gave a favourable impression... The houses... were of white but substantial stone...'.⁷ His timing was excellent, 'Real barristers were so scarce in... Australia... that anyone with a glib tongue was permitted to practice in the local courts'.⁸ On 2 February 1839 Edward Brewster, introduced by the Attorney-General, was enrolled as a barrister of the Supreme Court of New South Wales. Two months later, he learned of his appointment as Chairman of the Court of Quarter Sessions, the notice, appearing in the *New South Wales Government Gazette* of 23 March 1839 with Horatio Nelson Carrington as Clerk of the Peace, or court administrator. It was the opportunity Brewster was waiting for, and he took ship to Melbourne. A further appointment as Commissioner of the Court of Requests, another minor court, was gazetted on 16 October 1839, together with the appointment of H.N. Carrington as Registrar. However, the opening of that court was delayed until January 1840 as Carrington declined to accept the position because of inadequate salary.⁹ Brewster's combined salary for the positions of Chairman and Commissioner was £350 a year.

La Trobe had concerns regarding the Court of Requests appointment and stated

of Carrington.¹¹ La Trobe's concern arose from the fact that Brewster had accepted a government position, and so was ethically bound to refrain from taking advantage of that by private earnings in the commercial world.

When Brewster arrived in Melbourne, he could see that the district had great potential, well served by a large harbour and surrounded by excellent pastoral land. The town was growing rapidly, serviced by numerous shops, offices and hotels. Building tradesmen such as carpenters, bricklayers, plasterers and glaziers, were in constant demand. In May 1839 one visitor commented on 'the hundreds of houses, many of them spacious and well built'.¹² Reflecting on his time in Port Phillip, Brewster wrote that 'the town of Melbourne presented no very attractive appearance. It had but few houses, many of these of wood, with large, vacant spaces between most. The only remarkable buildings were those for religious worship'.¹³ This description was written many years after his departure and his memory may not have been accurate. An engraving of 1839¹⁴ depicts a growing town with vacant spaces but only one building for religious worship, a chapel, used by all Protestant denominations. The site of St James' Church is marked by the commencement of scaffolding.

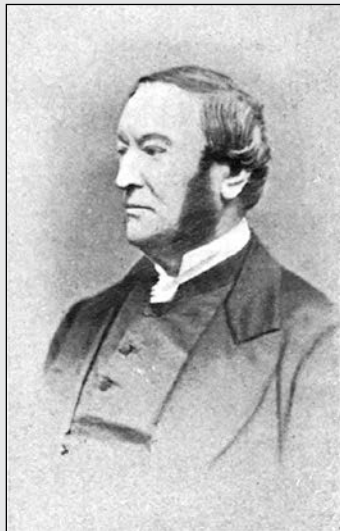
Twenty cases awaited him on his first day. Robert Pritchard, accused of robbing his master of one shilling and a pair of trousers, was acquitted because there were doubts about his actions.

George Reynolds was the first person convicted, his crime being the theft of wearing apparel and he was sentenced to six months imprisonment. During 1839 twenty seven offenders were convicted of felonies ranging from cattle stealing to theft or house breaking. A further nineteen were convicted of misdemeanours ranging from assault to not assisting a constable.¹⁵

The appointment early in 1841 of Port Phillip's first resident judge, John Walpole Willis, inaugurated a local Supreme Court with full criminal jurisdiction, subsuming the Court of Quarter Sessions. Brewster continued in the Court of Requests position on a salary of £100 until he resigned in November that year.

Brewster and Willis with some other members of the infant bar of Port Phillip in gowns and wigs attended St James's Anglican Church on Sunday, 11 April 1841.¹⁶ The following day

Brewster's relationship with Judge Willis was stormy to say the least. In a civil hearing in June 1841, he was admonished by Willis who noted, 'Then Mr Brewster thanked me for what I said and I replied he had only to thank me for a strong expression of his ignorance'.¹⁸ On another occasion the admission of fourteen gentlemen to practice law was moved by four barristers including Brewster. The only application to fail was that presented by Brewster on behalf of John Duerdin who had been admitted to the bar in England in 1831 but had never practiced or taken out a licence. Since arriving in Melbourne he had been in business as an ironmonger, bookseller and general dealer. Willis stated that he would not permit someone to step from behind the counter and into court. Brewster suggested that he might be allowed to practise 'as by that means he might become perfect'. Willis's response was predictable: 'What, at the expense of his clients?'¹⁹



Unknown photographer
Edward Jones Brewster, c.1850s
 John Leonard Forde, *The Story of the Bar of Victoria, 1839-1891* (Melbourne: Whitcombe and Tombs, 1913, page facing p.240)



Unknown photographer
Reverend Edward Jones Brewster, LLD
The Illustrated London News, 23 April 1898

the Supreme Court was opened for the first time in a small brick building at the corner of Bourke and King Streets. Following the swearing in of the new judge by William Lonsdale, James Croke was sworn in as crown prosecutor. Croke then moved that he, Edward Jones Brewster, Redmond Barry, Robert Williams Pohlman and Archibald Cunninghame be admitted to practice at the bar of Port Phillip, thus creating the Bar of Victoria.¹⁷ The first case involved the theft of £13 15s. by Jeremiah Murphy. Croke was the prosecutor and Brewster defended the prisoner unsuccessfully, as he was convicted and sentenced to seven years transportation.

Willis appears to have been a difficult character who 'fought with most inhabitants of the district'. It was reported that he would not allow a practitioner to wear a moustache or keep a stallion.²⁰ His Honour Paul R Mullaly QC, commenting on each of the cases in the Judge Willis casebooks, stated that 'Brewster had difficulty appearing before Willis and eventually gave up his practice at the Bar and went into commercial business'.²¹

Brewster bought land in the town and surrounding districts, since he foresaw Melbourne's continuing development and that eventually the district would become a colony



James Graham Boyd, fl.1845-1854, artist
Prince's Bridge, Melbourne, 1850
 Watercolour on cream paper
 Pictures Collection, State Library Victoria, H5503

in its own right. In 1839 he purchased six acres on the corner of Gertrude and Fitzroy Streets, Fitzroy.²² About 1840 he purchased land along the Yarra River and built *Avoca*. The 1841 New South Wales Census for *Avoca* stated that it was of timber construction with four residents: three males and one female, all between 21 and 45 years. He also purchased freehold in the city centre in Little Collins, Lonsdale, Little Flinders and Collins Streets, making a significant fortune from land and property investment over the ensuing sixty years.²³

Separation from New South Wales was a growing issue during the 1840s. Being part of the colony of New South Wales, decisions relating to Port Phillip were made by the Governor, in conjunction with a partly-elected Legislative Council after 1843, most of whose members were from the northern part of the colony. There was dissatisfaction with the distribution of funding, much of which was raised in Port Phillip. In January 1846 Thomas Elder Boyd resigned his seat on the Legislative Council as Port Phillip representative, and Edward Brewster nominated and was elected unopposed.²⁴ It was believed his practical knowledge of local wants, his large financial stake in the district, combined with his desire for its advancement, would enable him to be of great benefit to the Port Phillip District. In his 1895 reminiscences he wrote, 'I became a candidate for the place as a supporter for the separation of Port Phillip from New South Wales'. As the Legislative Council sat in Sydney, Brewster rented his property on the eastern hill in Melbourne to 'an excellent tenant... my friend, Mr (after Sir) Roger Therry, who was resident judge from 1845 to 1846, and, after him, Sir William A'Beckett who was subsequently raised to the office of the first Chief Justice of Victoria'.²⁵

Brewster's career as a politician was brief, but he did introduce several significant pieces of legislation. One of his goals was to simplify and diminish the expense of legal proceedings. He proposed simplifying conveyancing to allow educated clerks who were not lawyers to act as conveyancers, obviously a policy not popular with other members of the legal profession as they could see this as an erosion of their potential power and income. He also introduced a bill to give landlords better opportunity to recover their property from defaulting tenants. This legislation was reflected in dealings with a tenant of his whom he brought legal proceedings against to recover his property. Known as *Brewster's Act*, this legislation was welcomed although an attempt was made to repeal it in 1850. The *Argus* of 20 July 1850 wrote: 'Mr Edward Jones Brewster was no favourite of ours at any period of his career, but we have never refused him due credit for his efforts to protect the public from the rapacity of the lawyers.'²⁶ The paper went on to comment favourably on *Brewster's Act*, arguing the legislation enabled the landlord to recoup losses or regain his property without resorting to long and expensive court proceedings.

As Melbourne spread out on both sides of the Yarra River, the original timber bridge built in 1840 which catered mainly to foot traffic was insufficient. A more substantial bridge was needed to take the heavy dray traffic. A single span sandstone bridge designed by David Lennox was built with government funds. Charles La Trobe laid the foundation stone on Friday 20 March 1846, when most of the town's population, including school groups, members of the St Patrick's Society, the Temperance Society, the Masonic and other lodges were present. After the mortar was laid, a brass plate secured, and an invocation was offered by the

chaplain, there was a ceremonial scattering of corn and pouring of wine and oil in the ancient masonic tradition. La Trobe named the new structure Prince's Bridge, after the Prince of Wales.

Edward Jones Brewster, a principal in the Society of Freemasons, then delivered 'an oration'. He hailed the new bridge as a forerunner of similar works urgently required throughout the district. Commenting on the district's prosperity and the benefit that the bridge would bring, he said, '[T]he plans of the bridge exhibit a structure highly ornamental and useful – a single arch thrown across our largest river – it will be the means of uniting two of the most fertile portions of a country, justly designated Australia Felix'.²⁷ The bridge was officially opened by La Trobe on 15 November 1850.

The population of early Melbourne had a significant number of Irishman of both Catholic and Protestant persuasion. Members of the Catholic St. Patrick's Society and Protestant Freemasons Groups contributed to sectarian ill feeling and nationalist violence in the town.²⁸ As early as 1843 Catholics violently demonstrated when their Catholic candidate was defeated in the Legislative Council elections. In response the Protestants became more militant.²⁹ Edward Brewster belonged to the latter group. Both groups turned out in force on special occasions and displayed their colours, when the town was often beset by their marching with bands playing. The large Irish population in the colony still held onto many of the old country's traditions, including celebrating the victory of the Battle of the Boyne on 12 July 1690. In 1846 members of the Protestant Orange Society planned to celebrate the event with a festival at the Pastoral Hotel in Queen Street. On the Monday morning the hotel was decked out with Orange flags. A mob assembled outside the hotel largely made up of Catholics who eventually invaded the hotel. Shots were fired and several men wounded and it was only with the intervention of the military that order was restored. The following day further disturbances occurred, all public houses were closed and the *Riot Act* read by the Mayor.³⁰

As a result, the Party Processions Bill, which prohibited the display of faction or party flags in the streets, was introduced into the Legislative Council. The bill was still being debated in October 1846, but Edward Brewster's popularity was further diminishing. The conservative protestant Melbourne establishment were incensed when Brewster supported the Irish Catholics. The *Argus* stated that having gone into committee a 'long rambling and most unintelligible discussion took place



from which we gather that that bright luminary in the legislative way, Mr Edward Jones Brewster, would be content to do anything to "put down Orangeism solely".³¹ The Bill was read a third time and passed after a lengthy 'harangue' from Brewster. The Catholic St Patrick's Society passed a vote of thanks to Brewster for his comments in the Legislative Council, but those comments certainly alienated him from some protestant members of Melbourne society. Early in 1848, when he was on the point of leaving Port Phillip, he publicly declined an invitation to a mayoral reception through a letter to the press written from the Melbourne Club, giving as his reason that he would have to associate with William Kerr, a member of the Melbourne City Council and a Freemason who vehemently opposed Brewster's support of the Catholics.³² The editor of the Melbourne *Argus* was cutting: 'no wonder Mr Edward Jones Brewster is ashamed to look an honest man in the face. A branded liar and slanderer of his fellow countrymen and fellow colonists, the sooner he hides his diminished head in the wilds of Connemara the better'.³³ Whether it was his unpopularity or a desire to return to Britain, he had recently resigned from the Legislative Council, with the *Argus* claiming that his only interests in Council were self centred and that his constituency 'would never have chosen him if they could have got anybody else'.³⁴

On 1 February 1848 Brewster sailed from Melbourne on board the *Slains Castle*,³⁵ leaving his affairs in Australia in the hands of James Graham, his fellow traveller on the *Alfred* a decade earlier. Both he and Graham were early members of the Melbourne Club, a place where gentlemen could gather with others of similar social standing. By 1898 they were the only two members from the year 1839 who were still alive; they died within four months of each other. Graham was briefly an MLC for Victoria and he and his son Frank were named executors of Brewster's will.

Initially it appears Brewster lived in Ireland, since he received a Master of Arts from Trinity College in 1848, and then moved to England where he was granted a Bachelor of Arts from St Mary's Oxford in 1849 and a Master's degree in 1852. These were mandatory preliminaries to his ordination in July 1853 as a Church of England deacon, then a priest in 1854 at Winchester, and appointment as curate of St Helen's, Isle of Wight. He was curate of Monckton Coombe in 1857 and at All Saints in Worcester from 1858 to 1859. It was at Worcester that he met up again with Charles La Trobe, whose opinion of Edward Brewster was not unqualified. To an old friend in Melbourne the retired Lieutenant-Governor wrote: 'Who should I stumble on the other day in Worcester but *Misther Brewster!* now the worthy curate of All Saints in that city. I wonder if he ever makes a mistake & addresses his congregation "Jintlemen of the Djury" instead of "Dearly beloved brethren". However I am told he has turned himself out of a bungling lawyer into a very active & worthy clergyman'.³⁶

The next twenty three years in his new vocation took Brewster to a number of different parishes as vicar before returning to Trinity College in 1882 to gain a Bachelor of Laws degree and then a Doctorate. By then he was a wealthy man, with numerous properties in the heart of Melbourne all rented out, providing him with a substantial income. Whilst his public persona in England was that of a charitable Christian, his actions regarding his family in Ireland reflected a lesser charity. Brewster was one of seven children, and the eldest male; his sister Sarah Walker Brewster was just twelve months older than he was. In 1837 she married John Walker a civil engineer. The marriage was not popular with the family, for although Walker was her cousin and had a government post he was seen as a spendthrift, spending money on gambling and at his club. With six children, four

boys and two girls, to support and owing large sums of money, John Walker abandoned his family and moved to the Continent. The Dublin house and servants had to be given up and the furniture sold to cover the debt.

Sarah appealed for assistance to her brother Edward Brewster, as the senior male member of the family, but he showed no sympathy. His only response was to organise for two of the boys to be placed on a ship bound for Australia. Sarah became ill with consumption and as the illness progressed, the cost of medicines, the cost of raising a young family and the inability to pay the rent saw a further appeal to Edward. This was met with a similarly cold response and the next youngest son was placed on a clipper. When his sister finally died in 1867 his response was to pay the passage of the remaining three children to Australia for them to start a new life. Over the next thirty years only his niece Sara Walker maintained contact with him, but there was no support for them in any way.³⁷

Dr Brewster's life took a major turn in 1886 at the age of seventy-four when he married Marianne Augusta Leigh at Marylebone. She was the daughter of Evan Leigh, a wealthy industrialist and inventor. Marianne also appears to have had an interest in supporting philanthropic trusts. Whether because of his marriage or earlier interests Dr Brewster made contributions to numerous orphanages and schools in India. He apparently had a great interest in Palestine and Egypt as he had numerous notebooks on Palestine and also many Egyptian curiosities. Whether he travelled in those countries is not known.

When over eighty years of age he published a collection of his sermons titled *The Girdle of Truth, and other Pulpit Studies, etc.*³⁸ In 1897 he and his wife decided to make a trip to Australia, but only reached Cape Town in South Africa before he fell ill and died at the Grand Hotel on 17 March 1898, aged eighty-six. Brewster left an estate of over £100,000, half of which was held in property in Melbourne. His wife was the main beneficiary. To his nieces in Australia he left £200 each. More substantial sums were left to a variety of charities administered by his wife. With the death of Edward Jones Brewster, a connection with the earliest days of the settlement of Melbourne and La Trobe was gone.

1 A.G.L. Shaw, *A History of the Port Phillip District: Victoria before Separation*, Melbourne: Miegunyah Press, 1996, for overview; Hazel King, 'Bourke, Sir Richard (1777-1855)', *Australian Dictionary of Biography*, Melbourne: Melbourne University Press, 1966, vol.1, pp.128-133.

- 2 Population of Port Phillip in September 1838 exclusive of military and government gangs, www.access.prov.vic.gov.au (accessed 5 November 2015). Also in *Historical Records of Victoria*, vol.1, Melbourne: Government Printing Office, pp.422-423.
- 3 G.C. Boase, 'Brewster, Abraham (1796-1874)', rev. Sinéad Agnew, *Oxford Dictionary of National Biography*, Oxford University Press, 2004, <http://www.oxforddnb.com/view/article/3370> (accessed 7 March 2016).
- 4 John Leonard Forde, *The Story of the Bar of Victoria, from its foundation to the amalgamation of the two branches of the legal profession, 1839-1891: historical, personal, humorous*, Melbourne: Whitcombe and Tombs, 1913, p.36. On pp.29-42 Forde reproduces reminiscences sent to him by Brewster in 1895.
- 5 Forde, p.33; see also T.L. Suttor, 'Plunkett, John Hubert (1802-1869)', *Australian Dictionary of Biography*, vol. 2, pp.337-338; *The Colonist* (Sydney), 2 January 1839, p.3, reporting a *Limerick Chronicle* item that Brewster was among 'several junior members of the Irish bar' contemplating emigration to Sydney 'where a large forensic field is open to them'.
- 6 John Marshall, *Twenty Years' Experience in Australia: being the evidence of respectable and disinterested residents and travellers in those colonies, as to their present state and future prospects*, London: Smith Elder, 1839, p.68.
- 7 Forde, p.33.
- 8 *Daily News* (Perth), 30 July, p 3. Item replicated from the London *Daily Chronicle*.
- 9 *New South Wales Government Gazette*, 23 March 1839, p.1, 16 October 1839, p.1, 8 January 1840, p.27; Charles Joseph La Trobe to Sir George Gipps, 4 April 1840, in *Gipps-La Trobe Correspondence 1839-1846*, edited by A.G.L. Shaw, Melbourne: Miegunyah Press, 1989, note 10, pp.23-24.
- 10 *Ibid.*, p.22.
- 11 Mike Moore, 'Early Brunswick Street in 1839 and 1841', in *Brunswick Street Lost and Found*, edited by Miles Lewis, [Melbourne]: Fitzroy History Society, Faculty of Architecture University of Melbourne, National Trust of Australia (Victoria), 2012, p.18.
- 12 Rev. Joseph Orton quoted in Shaw, p.84.
- 13 Forde, p.36.
- 14 *Melbourne from the South Side of the Yarra Yarra 1839*, John Adamson, artist, J. Carmichael, engraver, Pictures Collection, State Library of Victoria, H24516.
- 15 *Historical Records of Victoria*, vol.1, p.290.
- 16 Forde p.56.
- 17 *Ibid.*, pp.56-57.
- 18 John Walpole Willis, Judge Willis Casebooks, Civil Book 1, 4 June 1841, p.1, Royal Historical Society of Victoria, <http://www.historyvictoria.org.au/willis/willis%20collection.html> (accessed 6 January 2016).
- 19 Forde, pp.58-59.
- 20 *Ibid.*, p.68.
- 21 Comment, p.2 in transcription of Civil Book 1.
- 22 Moore, p.18.
- 23 *Age*, 23 December 1907, p.7 for a summary of will. Many title documents also in author's family archives.
- 24 Brewster had returned from London in September 1845 on the ship *Hooghly*, source: *Sydney Morning Herald*, 6 September 1845, p.2. A few months after returning to Melbourne he stood for the Legislative Council and, according to newspaper reports, bought more land in 1846 worth in all about £3,000.
- 25 Forde, p.41.
- 26 *Argus*, 20 July 1850, p.2.
- 27 *Geelong Advertiser and Squatters' Advocate*, 25 March 1846 p.1.
- 28 Shaw, p.219.
- 29 *Ibid.*, p.225.
- 30 *Argus*, 14 July 1846, p.2.
- 31 *Argus*, 30 October 1846, pp.2-3.
- 32 Garryowen in his *Chronicles of Early Melbourne* (1888) described William Kerr as someone who had little of the 'Brotherly Love and Charity' on which the order was founded. He observed that some 'prominent freemasons... abused their positions in their respective lodges to gratify personal animosity generated outside' (quoted Shaw, p.219).
- 33 Letter with editor's comment 'Original Correspondence', *Argus*, 4 February 1848, p.2.
- 34 *Ibid.*, 'The Legislative Council', p.2.
- 35 *Port Phillip Gazette*, 2 February 1848, p.2 'Shipping, Cleared Out'.
- 36 La Trobe to David Charteris McArthur, 16 January 1860, in *Letters of Charles Joseph La Trobe*, edited by L. J. Blake, Melbourne: Government Printer, 1975, p.54.
- 37 Sara Ann Walker, Manuscript, undated in possession of author. The manuscript has been written about the family's difficulties whilst living in Dublin in the late 1860s, although the names have been changed.
- 38 Edward Jones Brewster, *The Girdle of Truth, and other Pulpit Studies*, etc., London: Nisbet, 1894



George Alexander Gilbert, 1815-1877, artist
Point Nepean, Shortland's Bluff, Queenscliff, Point Lonsdale, c.1854
Pencil and Chinese white on tinted paper
Pictures Collection, State Library Victoria, H6635

The La Trobe Dairy Farms

By Susan Priestley

Susan Priestley MA (Melb), RHSV Fellow and committee member of the La Trobe Society, is a practising historian with an interest in recovering lives and solving enigmas about people.

In this article about early Queenscliff, Susan advances the interesting argument that a private land subdivision auctioned on 31 December 1853 near Shortland's Bluff was of land owned by Charles Joseph La Trobe, which he desired to sell prior to his departure from Victoria. This contention has its basis in the striking format of the original advertisement, a premise Susan recognizes may not be universally accepted as sufficient.

Shortly after a three day visit to Shortland's Bluff in late November 1853,¹ and about five months before his final departure from the colony, Lieutenant-Governor La Trobe seems to have contacted the Geelong offices of auctioneer George Wright in Great Ryrie Street about personal business. He wished to dispose of about 400 acres (162 hectares) of land in the parish of Paywit on the outskirts of Queenscliff, the new township that had been established and named at his direction in June 1853. The area around the new township had played a key role in maritime safety from the official initiation of Port Phillip in 1836, with a pilot station on the foreshore and a signal station, followed by a lighthouse in April 1843, on the high bulbous tip of the Bellarine Peninsula that overlooked the turbulent bay

entrance. The tower and adjoining flag system were effectively visible in daylight hours. Crucial during the night was the lamp, its intensity boosted by about 250 per cent in 1850. The network was supplemented from August 1852 with a flag-signal station at Point Lonsdale, and a decade later by the Lonsdale lighthouse.²

As Executive head of government, even with the assistance of an incipient Legislative Council after 1851, it was always 'by order of His Honor the Superintendent' and subsequently 'at His Excellency's command' that townships were established and surveyed; subsequent maps were then issued showing government reserves and the allotments available for sale by the Crown. The development of 'Queenscliff at Shortland's Bluff', as it was first named,³ can

be traced through notices in the *Government Gazette* that included upgrading the lighthouse, health officer and pilot station services which all came under the province of the Harbourmaster, a position created in 1849, and preliminaries for establishing a telegraph system that began operating in 1854. It is not always recognised how comprehensive was the planning that La Trobe, with a limited number of advisors and colleagues, had to consider.

PROCLAMATION.



THE LA TROBE DAIRY FARM. PAYWIT.

N.B.—Between three and four miles from Queenscliff, the cream of Mr. Harding's run.

GEORGE WRIGHT

Has much pleasure in announcing that he has received instructions from the proprietor, to sell by auction, as soon as the survey is completed,

TWELVE EXCELLENT DAIRY FARMS, each having a good supply of fresh water, and being bounded by the Bellarine parish road, the Queenscliff road, and by the government reserve on the sea beach. The timber consists principally of oak. An abundance of good limestone is also on the land. The farms are in number twelve, none containing less than

30 Acres.

Advertisement
The La Trobe Dairy Farm, Paywit
Geelong Advertiser and Intelligencer
9 December 1853, p.3
Only the upper section is reproduced

In December 1853, agent Wright was quick to advertise the vice-regal patronage. The preliminary notice of a forthcoming auction in the *Geelong Advertiser* was boldly headed 'PROCLAMATION' above the official 'lion and unicorn' insignia,⁴ the Royal Arms. It was a cheeky mimic of the *Government Gazette* and its proclamations of Crown land sales. The heading was dropped from later advertisements, as were inaccurate references to Queenscliff being declared a 'free Port', indicating some chiding of the cheekiness. Wright had 'much pleasure in announcing that he has received instructions from the proprietor to sell by auction, as soon as the survey is completed', 400 acres at Paywit subdivided into twelve 'excellent' dairy farms of not less than thirty acres (twelve hectares) each. Land in the immediate vicinity had been sold for £30 to £100 per acre, an indication of the 'rising importance of this locality.' There was a good supply of fresh water, and the timber was mainly 'oak', that is sheoak, a hardwood species of casuarina prized by settlers as a hot-burning

fuel, and useful for tool handles and other light constructions. With the auction finally set for 12 noon on Saturday 31 December, Wright expanded into full real estate hyperbole:

The La Trobe Farms [are] the pick of the run of W. Harding Esq, about 3½ miles from the *Port of Queenscliff*... [They] adjoin the deservedly admired property of James Noble Esq, some of which realised last week £80 per acre... The Estate has abundance of good limestone, a rich black soil and *Permanent Fresh Water*, and is most delightfully situated between Point Lonsdale and the Barwon Heads. Title:- Grant from the Crown.

Each farm contains about 33 acres, and purchasers will have the option to taking adjoining sections... [and] the advantage of subdividing, if they think proper. In order to give every chance to intending purchasers, the agent has determined on post-poning his usual merchandise sale, that the farmers of Indented Head and Paywit may have the opportunity of competing for these most *Unquestionably Valuable Grazing and Agricultural Farms*. The agent will go with purchasers to point out the farms.⁵

Notwithstanding all the coaxing, particularly aimed at local people, only seven farms were sold initially, the purchasers being informed in mid-January 1854 that 'on Friday morning next the surveyor starts from Thompson's, Little Malop Street at 8 o'clock precisely, to point out each farm to its owner'.⁶ In early February 1854, La Trobe again visited Geelong, when 'his chief object was to inspect the various public works now in progress. Before leaving he gave a cheque for £25 towards the funds of the hospital'.⁷ It is tempting to view this generosity as prompted in part by a side visit to George Wright to collect proceeds from the sale. The remaining five farm lots, seemingly those further out, being 'four miles from Queenscliff', were included in Wright's 'Great Land Sale' advertised for 14 March 1854.⁸ Wright himself may have bought some of the remainder. His long advertisement of properties for sale in August 1854 included 'FARMS, and entire Sections at Bellarine, Paywit, Fyans Ford, Moodewarre'.⁹

In La Trobe's case, it would appear that all the Paywit land had been sold by 24 April, when he wrote a Memorandum nominating his intended Melbourne agents after his return to England. The *Jolimont* estate of twelve and a half acres (five hectares) was then his sole asset on

which to draw so as to secure a family home in England and provide for old age.¹⁰ There is some evidence that *Jolimont* was already on the market in December 1853, ‘but as yet no purchaser has been found willing to come up to the reserve price’.¹¹ As he had explained to a London friend two years earlier:

My children’s fortune, like that of my father’s children before them, must be ‘God’s blessing & a sound education’— for after twelve years service in the Colony I am no richer than I was on my landing — nor am I likely to become now in the midst of this extraordinary shower of gold which is causing me so much embarrn^t. & trouble — for while it is filling the pockets of Tom, Jack & Harry to repletion — it is washing out the little that may be found in the pockets of officials & professionals who cannot join in the scramble.¹²



James Edward Butler, active 1856–1872, artist
Hospital, Ryrie Street, Geelong, 1858
 Drawing, wash on cream paper
 Pictures Collection, State Library Victoria, H5343

A fortnight after writing the Memorandum, with news of his wife Sophie’s death in Neuchâtel bearing heavily on him, he embarked on the American steamship *Golden Age*, which was bound for Sydney then across the Pacific to Panama. There, passengers and Australian mail were transferred across the isthmus to the West Indian clipper *Magdalene* reaching London in just over two months, a swift passage for the times.¹³ As the *Golden Age* moved down Port Phillip past Queenscliff on 9 May 1854, La Trobe’s poignant memories of family summers there between 1844 and 1848 may have been mingled with relief that at least the Paywit investment had been translated into cash, possibly a thousand pounds or more if the advertised prices have any credence. Following his death at Litlington, Sussex, on 4 December 1875, probate papers reveal that his English assets amounted to less than £1,500, whereas colonial assets were just under £15,906, produced largely through disposal of the *Jolimont* estate, managed by his friends and executors, banker

David Charteris McArthur and merchant James Graham.¹⁴ In 1876 the La Trobe assets comprised money on loan and interest due, together with £3,622 in cash held by Graham Bros & Co.¹⁵

Identifying the location of the Paywit land, and deducing when La Trobe may have acquired it, became for me an irresistible historical quest. While seemingly of minor historical import, the quest broadened my understanding of the local economy operating on the Bellarine Peninsula, and across the colony as a whole, at the close of the La Trobe era. His role as Superintendent and then Lieutenant-Governor had been pivotal to orderly economic and social development in Port Phillip/Victoria, always acting within parameters set by the Imperial government transmitted through Sydney. Of particular economic significance were regulations under an Act proclaimed in January 1843 for the disposal by sale of ‘Waste Land belonging to the Crown in the Australian Colonies’.¹⁶ Proceeds from Crown land sales comprised a colony’s ‘territorial’ revenue, which was then available to fund public works. As significant in economic, social and political terms was the progressive implementation of representative government after 1851, which was fully achieved in 1856.¹⁷

By the end of 1853, an undivided block of 400 acres in the vicinity of Queenscliff was a scarce remnant. A trickle of Crown land sales in 1851 had become a flood by 1853. In February that year, six eighty-acre lots in the parish of Paywit, designated ‘Country’ with the upset (starting) price of £1 per acre, had sold near the village reserve that became Indented Head. Quarter and half-acre blocks in Queenscliff township, with upset prices as high as £8 per acre, had been snapped up at Crown land sales in August and October, as had thirty ‘Suburban’ blocks (upset price £2.10s per acre) of between four and six acres auctioned on 29 September. These were located across The Narrows, at what was originally dubbed West Queenscliff and later The Springs. Another auction at Geelong on 8 November 1853 included twenty Paywit lots designated ‘Special Country’ with an upset price of between £1.10s and £2, as well as fifteen country lots of between 80 and 150 acres at the northern end of the parish. Four of the special country lots, which ranged in size from about 18 to 77 acres were near the north-west boundary, the other sixteen stretched along the coastal area west of Point Lonsdale.¹⁸ A ten per cent deposit was required at all Crown land sales, which was forfeited if payment was not completed.

Private subdivisions also came on offer, often it seemed soon after the land had been bought from the Crown. In November the first release of the Marcus Hill estate¹⁹ of about 300

acres was advertised with the auction set for 14 December. It was subdivided into convenient lots that commanded

an extensive, uninterrupted and much varied view, not the least interesting of which is that of BASS' STRAITS [sic] with the continual stream of inward and outward bound vessels and steamers... while the vale immediately below, with its numerous lakes, clothed with the sportive duck, and the noble swan, presents an equally attractive picture.

The proprietor has, with a great deal of liberality and forethought, reserved for the exclusive use of the purchasers of this estate, about five acres of land, on which are two noble fresh water holes, containing an abundant supply of that necessary to meet all wants.

THE SOIL is well adapted for cultivation, as is apparent from the present rich herbage, and THE TIMBER, consisting principally of she-oak, would alone pay the purchasers of this land.²⁰

The name Marcus Hill is still attached to the area traversed by the highway from Geelong before it sweeps down to the Queenscliff-Point Lonsdale junction. Curiously, Lord Marcus Hill, a member of the British Parliament 'in the Liberal interest', was among those touted as Governor Gipps' replacement in 1844 during agitation whipped up by Port Phillip's first resident judge, John Walpole Willis, whom Gipps had 'amoved' from office in 1843 after a series of protests transmitted to Sydney by La Trobe. Willis suggested that both Gipps and La Trobe were to be recalled: 'I do not know who is to be the Governor's successor, but Lord Marcus Hill and Sir Eardley Wilmot have been spoken of. I have not heard who is to succeed the Moravian.' In 1853 Lord Marcus Hill was being touted in newspaper gossip as La Trobe's replacement. It is not known whether the estate was named for his lordship, or arises from another Marcus with 'hill' added from its topography.²¹

The detailed description of Marcus Hill lots²² mentions frontages to three government roads, thereby affording some clues to its location. The 'Great trunk road to Queenscliff' is the present highway; the one 'leading from the Bay to the coast' is the Drysdale-Ocean Grove Road; the one 'from Queenscliff to the lakes' probably indicates what is now Shell Road skirting Lake Victoria on the way to Ocean Grove. Striking off from the Port Lonsdale

section of Shell Road, and in more or less parallel alignment with the highway, is Creswell Road, although it is a mere back track at this lower end. Off its upper section is a short Latrobe Street. This may be another marker, since lots fronting Latrobe, Gipps and Fitzroy Streets are listed in the Marcus Hill advertisement, with the note that: 'the private roads on this property are the full width of government roads, viz., 65 feet.' Creswell may be a later renaming of either Gipps or Fitzroy Streets.

Oak Hill House some way down Creswell Road is suggestive of where a westerly boundary to Marcus Hill estate might lie. Reverend James Clow's *Oakhill* was built on 120 acres purchased from the Crown in two lots between 1852 and 1855, with both grants issued on 17 September 1855, indicating when payment was completed. Clow collapsed and died in the *Oakhill* garden on 15 March 1861; his widow lived there until her death on 7 January 1872.²³ Similarly, the lagoon off the present Clows Lane is a pointer to, or an echo of, the 'noble fresh water holes' available on Marcus Hill. A further release of estate lots, set for auction on 6 January 1854, was advertised in full booster mode: 'The situation of this property is such that it cannot fail rapidly to increase in value... portion of it has been re-sold, since the sale on the 14th December, at *80 Pounds per Acre*'.²⁴ The emphasised top price, as in the Dairy Farms advertisement, was almost certainly a market outlier rather than a norm (sections of Lots 4 and 5, and section of Lot 2 for second release).

Nevertheless, rapid subdivision and turnover of land bought from the Crown was common in the boom summer of 1853-4. The agent for Marcus Hill, John Davison junior, also handled the nearby Frankfort-on-the-Sea estate²⁵ auctioned on 24 December, the Saturday before the 'La Trobe Dairy Farms'. It consisted of 124 'Large Lots...in the near vicinity of... the suburban allotments of Queenscliff... [with] frontages to the Government and Battery Reserves'. Moreover, 'the quality of its soil, and the fact of the abundance of building and limestone on many portions is an undoubted proof of the eligibility of this estate, either as a speculation or safe investment.' The land was precisely identified as 'Section 2, 3, 4, and 30, Block 3, Parish Paywit',²⁶ which were among the special country lots sold on 8 November. They were adjacent sections bordering the sea reserve west of Fellows Road, Point Lonsdale, with the largest, section 30, touching on Lake Victoria.

More special country lots were combined in an adjoining subdivision auctioned by Davison on 1 February 1854. It comprised:

Township, Suburban and Farm Lots of West Queenscliffé [*sic*], situated between Frankfort on the Sea and the La Trobe Dairy Farms, and close to the celebrated *Marcus Hill Estate*, having an extensive frontage to the Government Esplanade, separating it from *Bass' Straits*, and leading direct to the Government Reserve [of] *Shortland's Bluff, Queenscliffé, &c, &c. ...*

In submitting this property to public competition, the Agent feels it unnecessary to resort to the usual method of puffing, feeling assured that the great partiality already so wisely evinced for land in this locality... Since the sale of Frankfort-on-the-Sea... many portions have changed hands, at an advance of £150 [*sic*] per cent.²⁷

Many portions of West Queenscliffé are delightfully situated, and well adapted as sites for *Marine Residences*...²⁸

A large portion of this land was readily acquired in a block half a century later for Lonsdale Golf Club, a modern marker for its location.

The last newspaper mention of the 'La Trobe Dairy Farms' was a decade later in 1864, when one of about thirty-five acres was sold 'by order of the mortgagee'. It was largely undeveloped, still well-timbered and only partly enclosed with post and rail fencing. The location was 'about 15 miles from Geelong, on the right of the Queenscliff road, and contiguous with the well-known vineyard of Mr Hering on the Marcus Hill estate'.²⁹ A boundary with that estate suggests that it was the farm furthest from Queenscliff; its frontage possibly starting a few hundred metres below the corner of Heggies Lane. Nearer Queenscliff the farm lots would have encompassed low-lying ground on the approaches to the Portarlington (formerly Indented Head) Road junction. In late April 1854 there was a wry paragraph in the *Geelong Advertiser*:

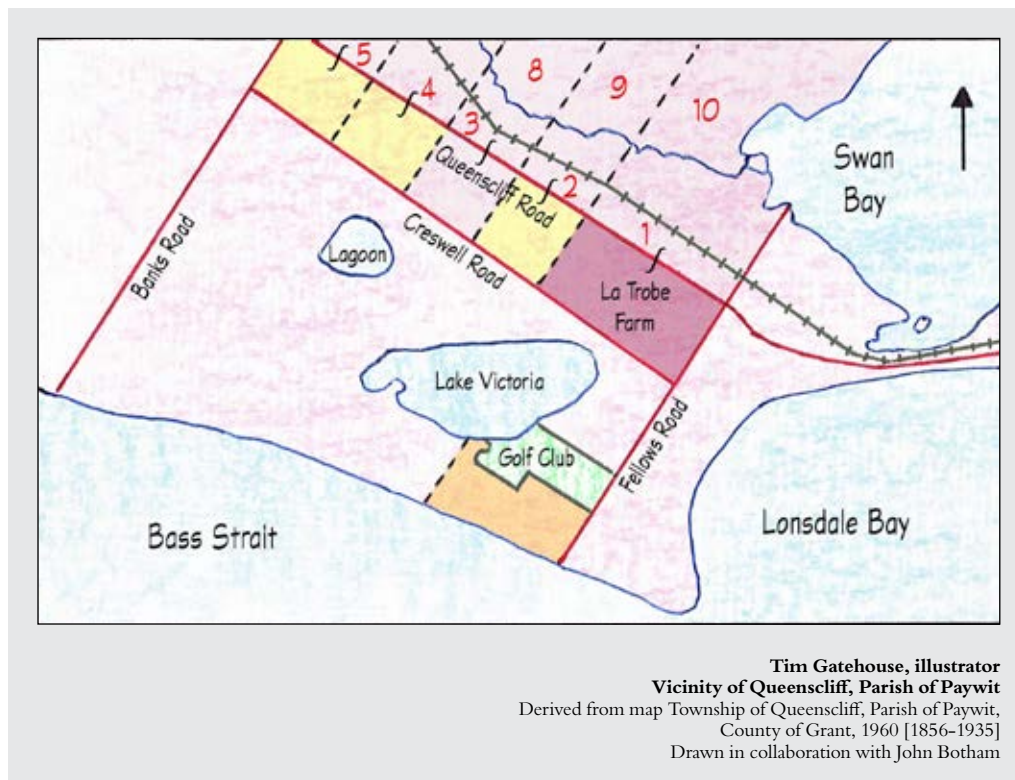
Of late several flattering accounts have appeared... describing the superior sites which... Marcus Hill, Frankfort on the Sea, and several others in the eastern district, presented for the investment of capital. These sites were all disposed of, or nearly so, before the late rains set in, consequently the purchasers could not possibly have been aware of the appearance they now cut, and are likely to maintain for the next six months. The remedy of drainage is, in most instances, impractical,

owing to their flat and low surface. At present it is possible to cross them on horseback, provided you make up your mind to be imbedded in slush and mud to the animals' girths – but... a dray, cart or foot passengers... would run the chance of not only being bogged, but of remaining so as a monument to their rashness.³⁰

Lack of drainage on low ground might not have posed insuperable problems for nineteenth century farmers, since dairy cattle pasturing up to their bellies in 'water meadows' was a classic indication of richness. Waterlogged ground nevertheless hampered twentieth century development. For several decades until 1973, a shell grit industry mined the 'limestone' deposits near the Queenscliff boundary to supply glassworks at Spotswood.³¹ More recently, housing estates have been landscaped around the resultant 'lakes'.

With the dairy farms' general location identified, the question of when La Trobe could have purchased the land from the Crown must be addressed, since no accessible archive records him as a Crown grantee of Paywit land. By contrast, those sections of the Jolimont estate purchased in 1840 that were subdivided and sold in the 1860s can be traced through the registration files of the transfer of land titles inaugurated when Victoria adopted the Torrens system in 1862. My proposal is that the Paywit purchase occurred sometime in 1853, less than a year before the subdivision was advertised in December. By then the land had been on the market for a decade.

In April 1843, just as the Shortland's Bluff light came into operation, notice was given of the sale of fourteen country lots in the parish of Paywit to be held on 10 May. It was one of the first Crown land auctions under the new legislation gazetted in January. But with Port Phillip in deep recession in 1843, only two lots were sold. One was among the four that encompassed Swan Island, and one was on the mainland. Yarram Creek flowing into Swan Bay formed one boundary for all ten mainland lots, five north of the creek and five to the south. Merchant and banker Charles Swanston completed payment and was issued with the grant to Lot 3 of 234 acres on 14 September 1844.³² Unsold lots were then advertised as open to selection requiring an annual payment of rent. By July 1849, Swanston and Willis of Geelong, the merchant partnership formed with his son-in-law Edward Willis (no relation to Judge Willis), claimed fifty selections in the Geelong district, eighteen of them in the parish of Paywit, the latter being collectively known as



Swanston & Willis' cattle station.³³ Following Swanston's death in 1850, rights to the pastoral run passed to William Harding but he made no claim to any land contained within the twelve unsold lots from 1843. In June 1850, all twelve were again advertised as open for selection under the 12th clause of the Waste Lands Act of 1842 and Regulations of 1 March 1843, with prices set at £1 per acre.³⁴ All four Swan Island lots, including the sold one, subsequently reverted to the Victorian government, with the whole island later transferred to the Commonwealth.

The only accessible evidence about the ultimate sale of the nine mainland lots comes from later parish maps that record John Alison and Andrew Halley Knight, a Melbourne merchant firm, with a Crown grant issued on 14 July 1852 to lots totalling 3,472 acres (1,405 hectares).³⁵ Alison and Knight then sold portions to other investors, one of whom apparently subdivided the Marcus Hill estate. As indicated above, this appears to have been located on those sections of the original Lot 4 (307 acres) and Lot 5 (376 acres) that were south of the main Queenscliff road, with the 'further release' on the corresponding portion of Lot 2.

The original Lot 1, with an easterly boundary to Swan Bay and 'the village reserve', was the largest at 600 acres. It would seem that the 'La Trobe Dairy Farms' were a remnant 400 acres of this lot as a long rectangular piece south of the Queenscliff road. While there is

no hard evidence to support this deduction, I submit a plausible scenario. Alison and Knight appear on maps as Crown grantee, that is the original purchaser, of linked portions of Lot 1, both north and south of the main road, but the firm may have wished to exclude the southerly portion from their large 1852 investment. If that decision was made as final payment became due, La Trobe may then have bought the portion knowing of its long unsuccessful exposure to the market. Its subdivision into farm lots, rather than lots for marine or country residences, suggests that the proprietor knew its shortcomings.

Since Lot 1, as with all the 1843 lots, had a set price of £1 per acre from June 1850, the likely purchase price paid by La Trobe, possibly diminished by an Alison and Knight deposit, was about £400. To gain a sufficient return when it was sold during the summer of 1853-4, the vendor's reserve would have been set at a higher level, since the surveyor's fee for the subdivision and legal costs had also to be taken into account. If La Trobe's reserve price was as low as £2 per acre, the Crown upset price for 'special country lots' near Queenscliff, and the auction did not go beyond that, his gross return from the sale would not have reached £800. If resale prices of £30 to £100 per acre cited in advertisements have any credence, the return would have been proportionately much higher. Taking a modest midrange guesstimate of say £200 for each farm averaging thirty-three acres, that is about £6 per acre, means that the twelve farms would

have brought in £2,400, making the net profit about £2,000. Whatever the return, if La Trobe was indeed the purchaser, it would have helped tide over the anticipated interim between official appointments. However, as we know, none eventuated and La Trobe had finally to accept a small overdue pension a decade after he left Victoria.³⁶

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- 1 *Charles Joseph La Trobe: Australian Notes 1839-1854* (introduction and notes Dianne Reilly, Melbourne: Tarcoola Press, State Library of Victoria and Boz Publishing, 2006) page 222 records him being at Shortland's Bluff from 27-29 November 1853. NB: 'Shortland Bluff' has been on VICNAMES place register since 1966, but 'Shortland's Bluff' was used both officially and colloquially after the navigational survey of Port Phillip, commissioned by Governor Bourke, was done between late October and early December 1836 by crew members from *HMS Rattlesnake* (Captain William Hobson), including P.F. Shortland.
 - 2 Notice to Mariners, dated 1 May 1850 and widely circulated, e.g. *Argus* from 2 May 1850; *Victoria Government Gazette*, no.32, 11 August 1852, p.839, Notice to Mariners detailing signals at Point Lonsdale.
 - 3 *Victoria Government Gazette*, no.35, 22 June 1853, p.895 and no.37, 29 June 1853, p.919.
 - 4 Advertisements *Geelong Advertiser and Intelligencer*, starting 9 December 1853.
 - 5 *Ibid*, 27 December 1853, p.2. The original purchaser of Crown land held a Grant from the Crown.
 - 6 *Ibid*, 17 January 1854, p.2.
 - 7 *Illustrated Sydney News*, 11 February 1854, p.4, 'VICTORIA'.
 - 8 *Geelong Advertiser*, 11 March 1854, p.7.
 - 9 *Ibid*, 21 August 1854, p.6.
 - 10 Graham Brothers collection, University of Melbourne Archives, 1961.0014, box 1.
 - 11 *Sydney Morning Herald*, 15 December 1853, p.4, 'Melbourne. From Our Own Correspondent'.
 - 12 Letter to John Murray III, 16 January 1852, transcribed in John Barnes, 'Charles Joseph La Trobe, Letters from the Colony', *The La Trobe Journal*, no.71, autumn 2003, p.130.
 - 13 *Times* (London), 18 July 1854, p.12, 'Australia', Gale Document Number: CS201493234.
 - 14 See F. Strahan, 'Graham, James (1819-1898)', *Australian Dictionary of Biography*, Melbourne: Melbourne University Press, vol.4, 1972, pp.282-283; and G. Blainey, 'McArthur, David Charteris (1810-1887)', vol.5, 1974, p.122.
 - 15 Probate papers, VPRS 28, P0002, unit 47; will & codicil, VPRS 7581, P0002, unit 25.
 - 16 *New South Wales Government Gazette Extraordinary*, 12 January 1843.
 - 17 See Ray Wright, *A Blended House: the Legislative Council of Victoria 1851-1856*, Melbourne: Department of the Legislative Council, Parliament of Victoria, 2001.
 - 18 Detailed in *Victoria Government Gazette*, no.50, 24 August 1853, p.1242; no.57, 5 October 1853, pp.1446, 1451-1453.
 - 19 The Markus Hill estate is shaded yellow on the map.
 - 20 *Geelong Advertiser*, 9 December 1853, p.3.
 - 21 *Ibid*, 29 March 1845, p.2, piece from Melbourne *Patriot* summarises 'private letters from Judge Willis received by the November mail; Also 26 August 1853, p.2, information in 'private letter' reported in *Melbourne Morning Mail*.
 - 22 *Geelong Advertiser*, detailed advertisement starting 2 December 1853.
 - 23 F.M. Bradshaw, 'James Clow (1790-1861)', *Australian Dictionary of Biography*, vol.1, 1966, pp.232-233; death notice for Margaret Morrison Clow, *Age*, 9 January 1872, p.7.
 - 24 *Geelong Advertiser*, 4 January 1854, p.7.
 - 25 The Frankfort-on-the-Sea estate is shaded gold on the map.
 - 26 *Geelong Advertiser*, 20 December 1853, p.7.
 - 27 Trove provides a transcription of 9,150 per cent, a ninety-fold increase.
 - 28 *Geelong Advertiser*, 1 February 1854, p.7.
 - 29 *Ibid*, 27 February 1864, p.2.
 - 30 *Ibid*, 24 April 1854, p.4.
 - 31 Marcus Wong, Rail Geelong website, <http://www.railgeelong.com>, accessed 26 February 2016.
 - 32 *Port Phillip Government Notices*, no.16, 19 April 1843, pp.61-62; *New South Wales Government Gazette*, no.101, 8 November 1844, p.1366.
 - 33 Table, 'Crown Lands brought within the Settled Districts Requiring Payment of Rent for Approved Selections under Pre-emption, County of Grant, (continued)', *Argus*, 21 July 1849, p.1; C. Swanston, 'Swanston, Charles (1789-1850)', *Australian Dictionary of Biography*, vol.2, 1967, pp.500-501.
 - 34 Notice from *Government Gazette* reproduced in *Geelong Advertiser*, 18 June 1850, p.2.
 - 35 *Township of Queenscliff, Parish of Payuit, County of Grant*, Melbourne: Department of Crown Lands and Survey, 1960, compiled from original plans 1856 and additions 1877-1935, microfiche 820 BJE 1837-5661 Q34(5), Maps Collection, State Library Victoria.
 - 36 Dianne Reilly Drury, *La Trobe: the making of a governor*, Melbourne: Melbourne University Press, 2006, pp.247-250.
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Villa La Trobe: a rural residence – research report

By Helen Armstrong

Helen Armstrong is a Volunteer Guide at La Trobe's Cottage and joint editor of La Trobeana. She lives a short distance from the former Villa La Trobe.

Villa La Trobe, Brighton, was a large timber house¹ on twenty-four acres (9.7 hectares) between what is now South Road and Holyrood Street in Hampton. It was the country home of the Speaker of the Victorian Parliament, Charles MacMahon, whose city home was in George Street, East Melbourne.

Captain Charles MacMahon, born 10 July 1824 in Omagh, County Tyrone, in Ireland's north, arrived in Melbourne on 18 November 1852 after military service in Canada and India. He arrived with large capital and many letters of introduction, which he chose not to present.² In India he had taken on extra duties as veterinary surgeon, for which he had a diploma. In January 1853 he applied for the sinecure of stud-master to the new police force, but was instead appointed district inspector, then assistant commissioner, and acting chief police commissioner in 1854. He was chief commissioner from 1856 to 1858 and proved to be a diligent, painstaking officer, a strict disciplinarian and a 'high-minded and honourable public servant'.³ He found the police force of Victoria in a state of chaos when he took charge in 1854, and left it in a generally promising condition when he resigned in 1858. During his administration he compiled the first police code for members.⁴

MacMahon was a member of the Executive and Legislative Councils from 1853 to 1856, which were headed by Lieutenant-Governor



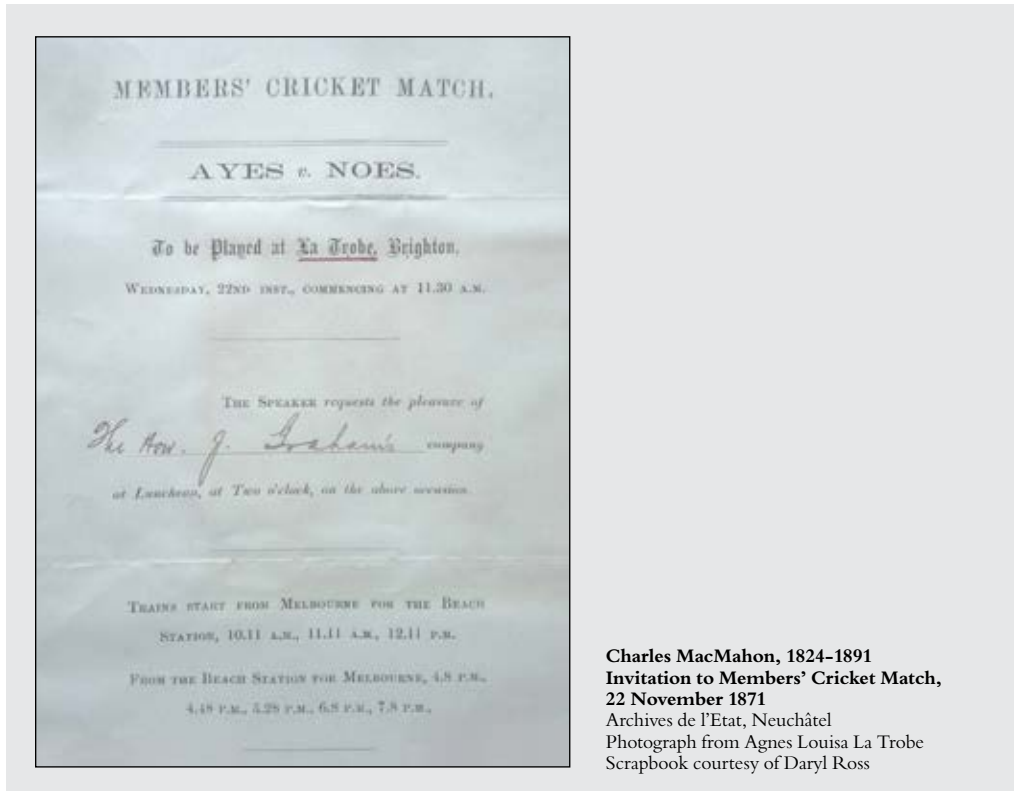
**Edward Gilks, b.1822?, artist
Captain MacMahon, West Melbourne, 1874**

Engraving
From leaf in Edward Gilks' Scrap Album of
Members of the Victorian Parliament for 1874
Pictures Collection, State Library Victoria,
H31555/18

La Trobe until his departure in May 1854. From August 1861 to August 1864 he represented West Bourke in the Legislative Assembly, and was minister without portfolio until June 1863. From 1866 to 1878, and again from 1880 to 1886, he represented West Melbourne, strongly supported by the Irish community in that area. In April 1871, and again in 1874, he was elected unopposed as Speaker of the Legislative Assembly, being knighted in 1875 for his services during the period of turbulent government in the 1870s.⁵

Soon after arriving in Melbourne, he bought land at Brighton. This was in the Parish of Moorabbin, Crown Portion 4, which was surveyed in 1851 totalling thirty-eight acres (15.4 hectares); it was purchased originally by Nicholas Were on 9 September 1852,⁶ and then Captain MacMahon by 1854. It was here that Captain MacMahon built *Villa La Trobe*, which he visited about once a week and where a groom, gardener and house servant were in residence.⁷

In a letter to La Trobe in England, James Graham, his friend and Melbourne agent, enclosed his own invitation to this cricket match, annotated at the bottom: 'I send you this to let you know that in addition to many other ways, your name will, by the above, be further handed down to posterity. This is the land you will remember Capt. MacMahon bought at Brighton'. The clear allusion is to the trenchant criticism from several quarters during the gold rushes as well as high praise from others that was



Charles MacMahon, 1824-1891
Invitation to Members' Cricket Match,
22 November 1871
 Archives de l'Etat, Neuchâtel
 Photograph from Agnes Louisa La Trobe
 Scrapbook courtesy of Daryl Ross

There was plenty of space to host an annual cricket match for members of both Houses once he became Speaker. Also invited were 'former members, the mayor of Melbourne and the town clerk, representatives of the three great professions, the University, and the commercial world, as well as the heads of the various public departments, and the officers of Parliament'.⁸ Spectators had the comfort of the summer house or under shady trees. A bowling-green and a quoit-ground offered other pastimes for guests or they might wander the flower-beds.⁹

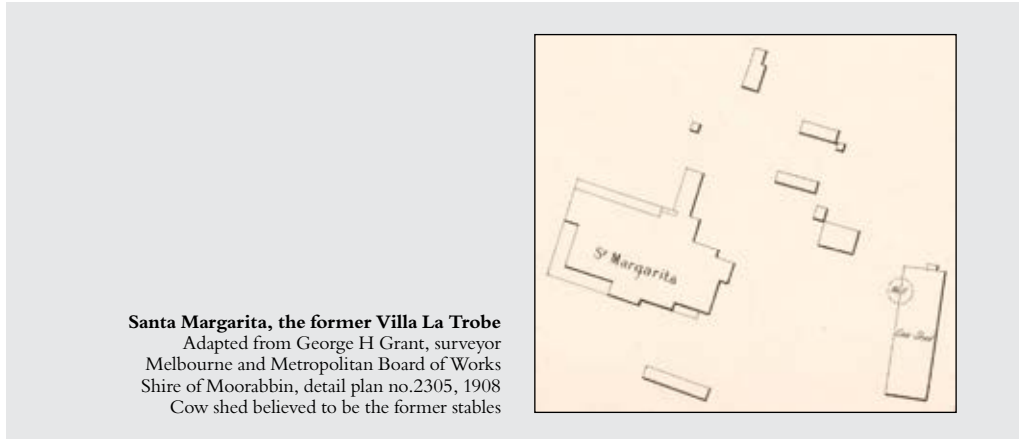
The first Speaker's fete and associated cricket match was held on 22 November 1871,¹⁰ for the 'Members' Cricket Match, the Ayes v. Noes, to be played at La Trobe Brighton'.¹¹ Invitations were for a match commencing at 11.30am, followed by luncheon at 2pm. The time-table for trains departing from Melbourne in the morning and from nearby 'Beach Station' in the afternoon was helpfully provided.

La Trobe's legacy in Victoria. As it transpired, his name on the Brighton property was not handed down to posterity, for in 1881, Sir Charles MacMahon sold *Villa La Trobe* to the Very Reverend Dr Henry Backhaus, who renamed it *Santa Margarita*, in memory of his mother.¹²

In the meantime, a major incident at Sir Charles's rural retreat was revealed in the headline 'Mysterious death at Brighton'.¹³ Mrs Hannah Racey, wife of the groom who lay paralysed and blind in the Melbourne Hospital following a stroke in 1876, had continued to live in a cottage at *Villa La Trobe*. On the morning of 27 May 1878 at about 8am she was found by the gardener in the water tank, which contained water to a depth of 3.7 metres, and was 4.3 metres wide, with an opening of 46 centimetres. At the inquest held the following day at Brighton's Council Hotel it was revealed that she was aged about forty-seven, sometimes drank to excess and was found to have attempted

suicide with a sharp razor before jumping into the tank. The jury returned a verdict that the deceased drowned herself whilst labouring under temporary insanity. The ‘mysterious’ part of the incident is that the suicide was supposed to have occurred during the night, yet the deceased was reportedly seen by and spoken to in Bay Street

6 September 1882, the day before Backhaus’s death, for the sum of 10 shillings – subject to probate duty. It was to be held in trust for the benefit of sick and retired priests. When the trust was dissolved in 1909, ownership passed to the Archdiocese of Melbourne, which then leased it for twelve years as a dairy farm.¹⁶



Santa Margarita, the former Villa La Trobe
Adapted from George H Grant, surveyor
Melbourne and Metropolitan Board of Works
Shire of Moorabbin, detail plan no.2305, 1908
Cow shed believed to be the former stables

(the shopping street two stations to the north) at about 9.30am by a woman who knew her well, and the stationmaster in North Brighton recalled taking her train ticket, but these two witnesses were not called to give evidence.

The purchaser of *Villa La Trobe*, the Very Reverend Dr Henry Backhaus, was born in Prussia in 1811, and came to Australia in 1846, firstly to Sydney and then Adelaide. In 1852 he was sent to the Victorian goldfields where he, ‘having been appointed the first priest to take charge of the Catholic population on the Victorian goldfields’, celebrated the first Mass in the Gold Commissioner’s camp at Forest Creek diggings.¹⁴ Five years later St Kilian’s Bendigo was opened, and he was appointed Vicar General of Sandhurst Diocese when it was established in 1874. He was a talented musician and his sound business acumen drew the nickname ‘Rev. Corner Allotments’ because of the valuable properties he acquired.¹⁵ He retired to Brighton and lived for a year at *Santa Margarita*, before returning to Bendigo to die in September 1882.

The Brighton property was transferred to the bishops of the three Victorian dioceses (Melbourne, Ballarat and Sandhurst) on

Most of the land was then subdivided into 109 building blocks and sold for housing in 1922,¹⁷ with many of the streets carrying names associated with the former owner as in Backhaus, Bendigo, Margarita, McCarthy (Bendigo’s third bishop) and St Kilian. St Mary’s Church and Catholic primary school were established in 1924 and 1925 on the southern portion of the land, adjoining Holyrood Street.

On the northern portion of the original property a substantial frontage remains intact at 52-58 South Road, supplemented by an adjacent tennis court at number 50. It comprises approximately 6,130 square metres, across three titles, and now features a massive twenty-first century house *Woodlands*, taking the address 52 South Road.¹⁸ A dominant feature in the garden is a very large *Arbutus unedo*, Irish strawberry tree, planted by the family of the previous owner in commemoration of his grandfather’s safe return from Gallipoli.¹⁹

Despite Sir Charles MacMahon’s wish to honour Charles Joseph La Trobe by naming his rural retreat after Victoria’s first Lieutenant-Governor, nothing remains on the ground today of these early associations.

1 Graeme Disney and Valerie Tarrant, *Bayside Reflections: history & heritage of Sandringham, Hampton, Black Rock & Beaumaris*, [Sandringham, Vic.]: City of Sandringham, 1988, p.94.
2 Suzanne G. Mellor, ‘MacMahon, Sir Charles (1824-1891)’, *Australian Dictionary of Biography*, Melbourne: Melbourne University Press, 1974, vol.5, pp.189-190.
3 John Sadleir, *Recollections of a Victorian Police Officer*, Melbourne: George Robertson, 1913, p.265.
4 Mellor, p.189.
5 Ibid.
6 *Parish of Moorabbin, County of Bourke*, Melbourne: Department of Lands and Survey, 1864, and also 1885 edition of map, Map Collection, State Library Victoria. Weston Bate, *A History of Brighton*, Melbourne: Melbourne University Press,

- 1962, p.144, etc. (Nicholas Were, resident in England, was the elder brother of Jonathan Binns Were, former partner of Henry Dendy whose Special Survey of 1842 laid the foundation for Brighton. Nicholas Were was for many years Brighton's largest land owner.)
- 7 From the Melbourne press in 1878, see also note 13.
 - 8 *Argus*, 7 December 1872, p.2.
 - 9 Ibid.
 - 10 *Illustrated Australian News*, 4 December 1871, p.211.
 - 11 Invitation to Members' Cricket Match addressed to The Hon. J. Graham, Agnes Louisa La Trobe Scrapbook, La Trobe Neuchâtel Archive, MS 13354, folder 12, Australian Manuscripts Collection, State Library Victoria (copy of the original that is held in the Archives de l'Etat, Neuchâtel).
 - 12 Disney and Tarrant.
 - 13 For instance *Argus*, 28 and 29 May 1878, *Age*, 29 May and 11 June 1878, and *Australasian*, 1 June 1878.
 - 14 A.E. Owens, 'Backhaus, George Henry (1811-1882)', *Australian Dictionary of Biography*, Melbourne: Melbourne University Press, 1969, vol 3, p.67. The quotation is taken from an entry by Backhaus in a family Bible.
 - 15 Ibid.
 - 16 Malachy John Nolan, *The Enterprising Life of Dr Henry Backhaus, Bendigo pioneer*, Bendigo: M J Nolan 2008, p.113.
 - 17 Ibid; and Disney and Tarrant. (Nolan records that although a sum of £33,000 was raised through the land sales it was later discovered, when the charity to support sick and retired priests was bankrupt in 1941, that the proceeds had gone towards Archbishop's Mannix's purchase in 1922 of the new Werribee seminary at a cost of £78,000.)
 - 18 Beverley Johanson, 'Crown jewel of Brighton', *Age (Domain)*, 3 October 2009, p.5.
 - 19 Classified 11 December 1997, <http://vhd.heritagecouncil.vic.gov.au/places/70906>,
- NOTE:** La Trobe's name has become more prominent in recent years through La Trobe University, founded 1967, and commemorative plaques and other memorabilia associated with the centenary of his death in 1975, see www.latrobesociety.org.au/LaTrobesites.html. In the 1960s a Melbourne family who had an interest in and connection with the La Trobe era named their holiday house at 2683 Point Nepean Road, Rye, *La Trobe*; the property overlooks the entrance to Port Phillip and across to Queenscliff, a location very significant in La Trobe's life (personal communication Daryl Ross).

The Letters of Charles Joseph La Trobe: a review

By Loreen Chambers

Loreen Chambers is a retired secondary teacher who taught History, English and Geography during a career of over thirty years culminating with the position of Head of History at Lauriston Girls School. In retirement, she is a member of a number of historical and cultural societies, and is currently on the editorial committee of the C J La Trobe Society. Her main interests are British and Australian History, with particular focus on the 18th and 19th century period, as well as family history.

Until 1975, historians interested in the personal letters of Charles Joseph La Trobe were obliged to read them in collections such as those of the State Library of Victoria, the State Library of New South Wales, the University of Melbourne Archives, or indeed the Archives of the Canton of Neuchâtel in Switzerland. However, as the centenary of La Trobe's death grew closer L.J. Blake, the State Historian of Victoria (1974-1976)¹ began transcribing and editing sixty-one of La Trobe's letters which were duly published in 1975 as a book by the Government of Victoria intended as the first in a series on Victoria's history.² Thus, it might be said that La Trobe's world was revealed to a

larger audience for the first time, leading the then Premier, Rupert Hamer to comment: 'There is much in these letters of a character to make a man conceive for him an unfaltering esteem and regard'.³ Indeed, all of us who have cherished this slim volume with its charming dust jacket of George Alexander Gilbert's *View of Jolimont*, man or woman, would agree with this view.

With the development of the La Trobe Society website, particularly in the last three years, La Trobe's world has been revealed to a world-wide readership. In 2015, twenty-two letters from La Trobe to his daughter Agnes written between 1845 and 1854 were selectively transcribed by Helen Botham and others.



Charles Joseph La Trobe, 1801-1875, artist
The Inn, Mount Sturgeon, 1850

Sketched in a letter to Sophie La Trobe, 12 March 1850
Australian Manuscripts Collection, State Library Victoria, H15618
The Woolpack Inn, Mount Sturgeon, later Dunkeld, was owned
by Andrew Templeton, who emigrated on the *David Clark* in 1839

Letters

Now, in 2016, the entire collection of letters to be found in Blake's 1975 edition has been scanned and uploaded to our website, together with thirteen additional letters. Many of these letters to some nineteen recipients, among them, 'Dearest Wife', that is Sophie La Trobe, were written during Charles Joseph's numerous travels around the Port Phillip District. These tend to be somewhat guarded so as not to trouble his anxious wife which, considering the distances he was covering in often dangerous and lonely conditions, are remarkable; others are jaunty in tone and reveal a loving family man: 'Tomorrow I start early for Port Fairy 50 miles – & the next day get on to Warrnambool & a little fwd then perhaps on my road home. I am pretty well [supplied with] horses & shall do what I can to be with you to dinner on Thursday... People are kind & complimentary here – & I wish you were here with me. I send a note to each of the little girls & five kisses to Charley'.⁴

A large number of personal letters were also written to Ronald Campbell Gunn, the noted naturalist in Van Diemen's Land with whom La Trobe shared mutual interests throughout his life.⁵ Others were written after his return to England to business men who became trusted friends and advisors, such as David Charteris McArthur, Melbourne manager of the Bank of Australasia.

The additional letters that were not included in Blake bring both familiar and new recipients to the attention of the reader; these range from Charlotte La Trobe, Charles Joseph's older sister, and Charlotte Pellet, the family's beloved housekeeper, to Sir Redmond Barry and Augustus Tulk. There is also an extraordinary

letter to Captain George Ward Cole written at Clapham House in 1869 in which the, by now, totally blind La Trobe has dictated what amounted to an obituary of Captain Ferguson the Harbour Master of Port Phillip.⁶ It reveals a man still deeply engaged in his legacy and determined to render service to those he admired. Like many a letter it reveals as much about the character of La Trobe at his best as it does of the man he describes.

La Trobe's letters deserve to be read not only for what they reveal about him during his time in colonial service but also in the period after his return to England in 1854. After all, he was to live another twenty years. They reveal the joy of seeing old friends and the deep piety and the resignation to ill-health that beset him later. They reveal, too, his acerbic wit and petulance characteristic of him especially as he got older.⁷ As a younger man, he had been adventurous, restless and physically intrepid but always driven by a mission that few other men in that far-flung outpost of civilization could understand. A few men of principles that he found in Port Phillip were to become his friends, and we see them in this collection of personal letters. Like all of La Trobe's letters they are worth reading for the pleasure of getting to know this most interesting and complex man over his long life.

Overviews and Notes on the Letters

Blake's Overview by Date has been included and an Overview by Recipient has been added, and so we find, for example, thirteen letters to James Graham his confidential friend and agent, and the dates on which they were written, in this case, virtually all after La Trobe's return to England.

Also, Blake's indispensable Notes on the Letters have also been included. These provided details of the many people mentioned in the letters, such as Niel Black (the bachelor squatter in search of a Scottish wife), to whose 'pretty cottage' near the Volcanic hill La Trobe walked his horses the nine miles.⁸ And there is Frederick Armand Powlett, a Bacchus Marsh squatter who remained a friend throughout La Trobe's life and was memorably described by La Trobe when he was visited by him at Whitbourne as 'the same excellent hearted fellow as ever, trailing his puppy dogs about him'.⁹ Blake also included entries on places such as Cape Otway and Maiden's Punt, a reflection of Blake's fascination with location,¹⁰ and expressions and words such as Chevy and Michaelmas are also explained. Indeed, the Notes are so useful that they might be a first port of call for those just entering La Trobe's world. The Notes have received moderate editing, in keeping only with updated information.

Helen Armstrong as editor and John Botham as webmaster are to be congratulated in the latest important addition to our ever-expanding website. The search for further

letters by Charles Joseph La Trobe in various archives, however, goes on, and in time many of these hopefully will also be transcribed.

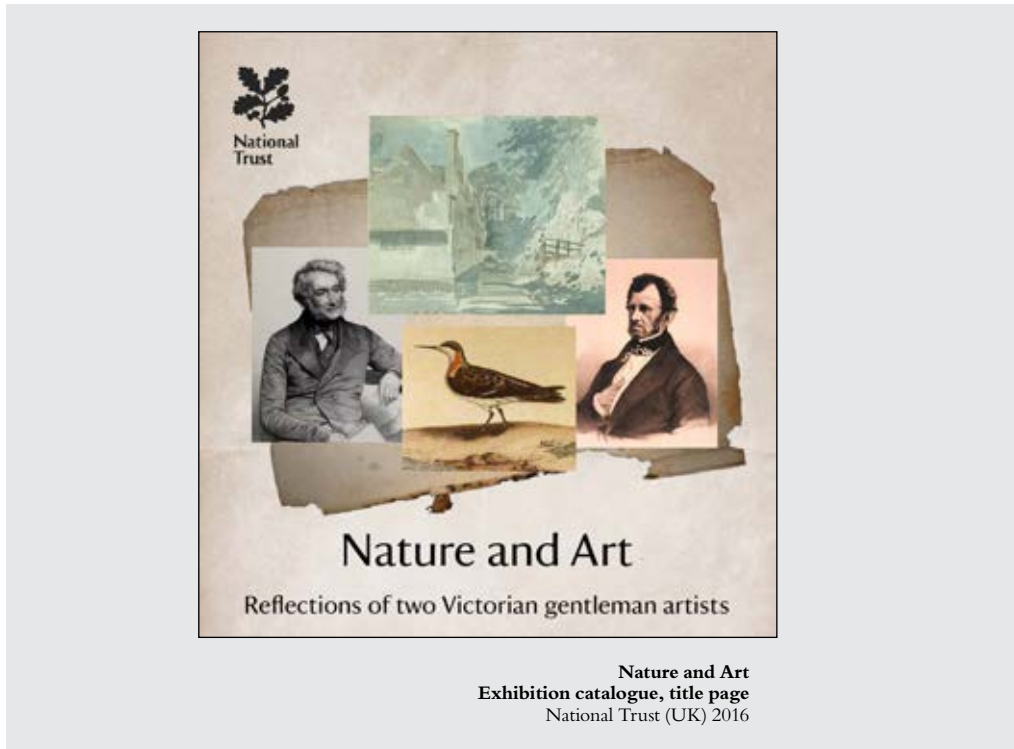
Accessing the Transcripts

The letters can be accessed via the drop-down menus:

Publications–Transcripts
Publications–Works about La Trobe.

The letters are then divided into two sections: Australia, 1839–1854, 27 pages; and England, 1854–1872, 32 pages.¹¹ Each section has a collection of letters written at that time, together with Overviews by date and recipient, and then Notes. Transcripts published in other sources, such as those edited by John Barnes, are also listed on the Publications pages.

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- 1 Lesley James Blake OBE (1913–1987). Blake had an interesting career in his own right. Historian, educationalist and author of more than twenty books, L.J. Blake was the historian for the Education Department of Victoria (1966–1967), a career broken only by service with the AIF during World War II.
 - 2 L. J. Blake (ed.) *Letters of Charles Joseph La Trobe*, Melbourne: Government Printer, 1975. Foreword by R. J. Hamer.
 - 3 *Ibid*, foreword p.v.
 - 4 La Trobe to Sophie La Trobe, Portland, 19 March 1848.
 - 5 Lynn Blackwood, 'The Contribution of Ronald Gunn to our Knowledge of the Flora and Fauna of Tasmania', *La Trobeana*, vol.11, no.3, November 2012, pp.30–36.
 - 6 John Botham, 'The Good Old Rajah': and those who sailed in her', *La Trobeana*, vol.14, no 2, July 2015, pp.31–42.
 - 7 Kate Lack and Loreen Chambers, 'Whitbourne and Whitbourne Court 1858–1866', *La Trobeana*, vol.14, no.1, March 2015, pp.15–27, especially pp.18–22.
 - 8 La Trobe to Sophie La Trobe, Muston's Creek, 11 February [i.e. March 1850].
 - 9 La Trobe to David Charteris McArthur, undated fragment of a letter but possibly 16 January 1860.
 - 10 L. J. Blake, *Place Names of Victoria*/Les Blake, Adelaide: Rigby, 1976.
 - 11 Eva Millie, 'The Letters of Charles Joseph La Trobe: a legacy to us', *La Trobeana*, vol.14, no.1, March 2015, pp.28–34.



Celebrating La Trobe the Artist at Ightham Mote

By Helen Botham

Helen Botham is a member of the La Trobe Society and a guide at La Trobe's Cottage. She was foundation chair of the Friends of La Trobe's Cottage and is the author of *La Trobe's Jolimont: A Walk Round My Garden*, published in 2006. Since then she has maintained a deep interest in the life of C J La Trobe, which has included visits to La Trobe sites in England.

Quite how La Trobe found Ightham Mote, near Sevenoaks, is not known but a more appropriate place for a man of his sensibilities and cultural receptiveness could not be imagined.¹

Four La Trobe Society members who recently re-visited this moated manor house dating from 1320 could only agree with this observation. Loreen and John Chambers, and Helen and John Botham, were again captivated by this enchanting house and the beauty of its setting. Charles Joseph La Trobe lived there between December 1855 and June 1856, and from this brief stay he produced forty pen and

ink drawings and watercolour sketches of how he saw his 'remarkable medieval home and its surrounding countryside'.²

The National Trust UK has now documented La Trobe's time at *Ightham Mote* in an exhibition titled *Nature and Art: reflections of two of Ightham Mote's previous residents*, which also reveals the life of the renowned naturalist Prideaux John Selby, who owned the property from 1845 to 1867. Both men had an interest in the natural world and were skilled artists. Several staff members and volunteers collaborated in producing the exhibition; some of the exhibits are from the *Ightham Mote* archive, other items have been sourced from elsewhere or are on

loan. La Trobe's proficient images of *Ightham Mote* are the focus of the exhibition, together with choice examples of Selby's bird illustrations. An interesting inclusion is a nineteenth century herbarium sheet of Clover Glycine, *Glycine latrobeana*, on loan from the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew.³ This species is currently growing in the La Trobe's Cottage garden.

The Chambers and the Bothams were greeted by house guide John Prance, property archivist Pat Straughan, and conservation assistant, Sam Bentley. John's developing interest in La Trobe has resulted in a paper titled 'Charles Joseph La Trobe (1801-1875) an Australian connection to Ightham Mote' for the exhibition. He gave us a personal tour of the



John Botham, photographer
The setting for C J La Trobe: The Mote Ightham, S.W. corner showing entrance tower in west front and half timbered south, c.1856 [2016]

There are panels giving information about the life and work of both Selby and La Trobe, but the highlight of the exhibition is the positioning of reproductions of La Trobe's water-colours on easels outside the house at the places from where he would have sketched them. Although there have been changes to the structure of the house and garden, we were enthralled to see the views as if looking over La Trobe's shoulder.

Dr Dianne Reilly and John Drury had visited this historic house in March, and at the invitation of Bernadette Gillow, General Manager of *Ightham Mote*, Dianne gave a presentation 'Charles Joseph La Trobe: the Man and the Governor' to staff and volunteer guides, after a tour of house and garden with one of the guides, Professor Philip Stott.

house, accompanied by Pat Straughan who was on hand to give extra details about the house and its residents. The fourteenth century structure of the house has been modified many times and features from each era are there for the visitor to see.⁴

We very much appreciated the warm welcome we received; our visit gave us a new understanding of *Ightham Mote*, and why La Trobe so loved his time there. The current exhibition, open till 30 October 2016, brings Charles Joseph La Trobe to the attention of the many visitors to this outstanding property, and we would encourage any La Trobe Society members who are planning a trip to England to consider a visit to *Ightham Mote*.

1 Richard Heathcote, 'Charles Joseph La Trobe and the English Country House', *La Trobeana*, vol 9, no 3, November 2010, pp.35-39. See also Loreen Chambers, 'Ightham Mote and Litlington Parish Church revisited', *La Trobeana*, vol.12, no.3, November 2013, pp.38-40.

2 Heathcote, p.36.

3 Nature and Art: reflections of two Victorian gentlemen artists, exhibition catalogue, *Ightham Mote...2016*. (<http://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/ightham-mote/documents/ightham-mote---nature-and-art-exhibition-catalogue.pdf>).

4 The house was in a state of serious disrepair when La Trobe lived there. It has recently been handsomely restored in a National Trust conservation project lasting 15 years and costing about £10 million (<https://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/ightham-mote/features/the-10-million-house>).



Shawn Dowd, photographer
La Trobe's Cottage garden, 2014



Sandra Pullman, photographer
Hand pump from
Bishopscourt
c.1850 (2016)

La Trobe's Cottage Report

Last summer season's Sunday openings of the Cottage went well with a total of 450 visitors. Some Sundays were fairly quiet, others very busy with up to twenty-five visitors. Almost every Sunday some National Trust members came as a result of publicity about the opening. The majority of visitors, however, just happen by; they are interested, and often surprised, to learn about La Trobe. The volunteers find it rewarding to meet them, and to have the opportunity to tell them the story of Charles Joseph La Trobe. A few visitors have taken their new interest further and joined either the Friends of La Trobe's Cottage or the La Trobe Society. Another fifty people came on the special open day to celebrate the National Trust's sixtieth anniversary on Saturday 21 May; and since last July, 620 were booked on Monday or Thursday tours with Government House, bringing the total number of visitors to 1,120 for the period July 2015 to June 2016.

Richard Heathcote, Chair of the Australian Garden History Society National Management Committee, brought his committee members to visit the Cottage in February. It was Richard who, during 2004–2005 when he was at the National Trust, encouraged research into La Trobe's garden which led to the publication of Helen Botham's *La Trobe's Jolimont: a walk round my garden* in 2006. The AGHS and the La Trobe

Society shared the costs for the production of the book. Garden coordinator Sandi Pullman and Helen were delighted to show the committee around the Cottage, explain the garden plants and their history, and tell of future plans.

A digitised landscape plan of the garden has been loaded onto the Friends website. It provides a snap shot of the garden as of February 2016. The Friends also received an unusual present of an old c.1850 hand pump from Bishopscourt, East Melbourne. It is being mounted on a recently-acquired wine barrel, similar to those used to cart water in La Trobe's time.

The Friends of La Trobe's Cottage annual lecture, *'La Trobe's First Immigrants: the 1839 Voyage of the David Clark'*, presented by Irene Kearsey, was a very successful evening with over fifty members and guests in the appreciative audience. We look forward to hosting three monthly talks in Domain House on Sunday afternoons over the coming months (see details in Forthcoming Events). These will be in the interval before the regular Sunday afternoon Cottage openings resume after the winter break on 2 October.

Lorraine Finlay
Manager, La Trobe's Cottage

Forthcoming events

JULY

Friday 15

Melbourne Rare Book Week Lecture

Time: 6.30 – 8.00 pm

Venue: Morgans at 401, 401 Collins Street, Melbourne

Guest Speakers: Des Cowley, History of the Book Manager, with Richard Overell and Anna Welch, State Library Victoria

Topic: Books from a Turbulent Time: John Emmerson and the 17th century

Refreshments

Admission: No charge

Bookings:

secretary@latrobesociety.org.au, or phone 9646 2112 (please leave a message).

Sunday 31

Member's Talk to Members and Friends

Time: 2.30 – 4.00pm

Venue: Domain House (next door to La Trobe's Cottage), Dallas Brooks Drive, Melbourne 3004.

Speaker: Loreen Chambers, formerly Head of History, Lauriston Girls School

Topic: Victoria before Separation: the early days of the Port Phillip settlement

Refreshments: afternoon tea will be served

Admission: \$5, paid at the door

Bookings: Daryl Ross, dmmfross@bigpond.com or phone 9822 3328 (please leave a message)

AUGUST

Wednesday 3

La Trobe Society Annual General Meeting and Dinner

Time: 6.30 pm

Venue: Lyceum Club, Ridgway Place, Melbourne

Guest Speaker: Professor Graeme Davison, Eminent historian and Sir John Monash Distinguished Professor of History, Monash University

Topic: The Governor, the Captain and the Needlewomen: How my great-great grandmother arrived in Port Phillip
Invitations have been sent out for this event

Sunday 28

Member's Talk to Members and Friends

Time: 2.30 – 4.00pm

Venue: Domain House (next door to La Trobe's Cottage), Dallas Brooks Drive, Melbourne 3004.

Speaker: Dr Dianne Reilly, Honorary Fellow, School of Historical and Philosophical Studies, University of Melbourne

Topic: La Trobe's Enduring Legacy: the achievements of the Superintendent of the Port Phillip District 1839-1851, and later Lieutenant-Governor of the new colony of Victoria 1851-1854.

Refreshments: afternoon tea will be served

Admission: \$5, paid at the door

Bookings: Daryl Ross, dmmfross@bigpond.com or phone 9822 3328 (please leave a message)

SEPTEMBER

Sunday 25

Member's Talk to Members and Friends

Time: 2.30 – 4.00pm

Venue: Domain House (next door to La Trobe's Cottage), Dallas Brooks Drive, Melbourne 3004.

Speaker: Helen Botham, foundation chair, Friends of La Trobe's Cottage

Topic: La Trobe's Jolimont Cottage and Garden 1839-2016, revealing some lesser-known facts about the Cottage and its owners

Refreshments: afternoon tea will be served

Admission: \$5, paid at the door

Bookings: Daryl Ross, dmmfross@bigpond.com or phone 9822 3328 (please leave a message)

NOVEMBER

Christmas Cocktails

Details to be advised

DECEMBER

Sunday 4

Service to mark the Anniversary of the Death of C J La Trobe

Time: 11.00 am

Venue: St Peter's Eastern Hill, 15 Gisborne Street, Melbourne

All welcome

Back Issues

Back issues of La Trobeana are available on the Society's website, except for those published in the last twelve months.

The back issues may be accessed at www.latrobesociety.org.au/LaTrobeana.html
They may be searched by keyword.

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 on the inside front cover and at www.latrobesociety.org.au/LaTrobeana.html.

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BACK COVER
La Trobe Family coat of arms
INSIDE FRONT COVER
Charles Joseph La Trobe's coat of arms,
taken from his bookplate

