

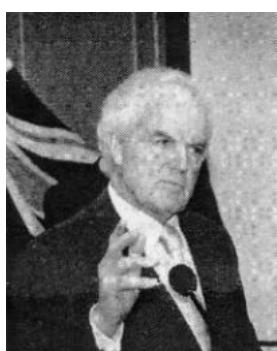
Report on Annual General Meeting

A capacity crowd of 80 members was treated to a stimulating second Annual General Meeting of the La Trobe Society, held at National Trust Headquarters on 20 August. Following an account of the activities of the Society from the Executive Committee, members Robyn Riddett, Fay Woodhouse and Geoffrey Down gave short illustrated lectures on Jolimont Estate where La Trobe's cottage was first erected in 1839. The first of these – Robyn Riddett's analysis of the London square and its influence on the design of Jolimont Square - appears in this issue of *La Trobeana*.

The others – Fay Woodhouse's discussion on the establishment of the sub-division of Jolimont, and Geoffrey Down's biographical account of Sir James Frederick Palmer, medical practitioner, politician and developer of Jolimont Square, will be reprinted in the next edition (Volume 2, No. 1, February 2004).

Dianne Reilly
Hon. Secretary

Vale
Richard Elgin McGarvie
21 May 1926 – 24 May 2003



It is with great sadness that we record the death of valued member, Richard McGarvie.

After a distinguished career at the Bar, he was appointed a judge of the Supreme Court of Victoria where he served for sixteen years. In 1981, he was appointed Chancellor of La Trobe University. In 1992, the Kirner Government rewarded Justice McGarvie's contribution to Victoria's public life by appointing him State Governor, a role he fulfilled with great dedication and distinction for five years.

In more recent years, Mr McGarvie was known for his views on the issue on Australian

head of state. In 1998, he was a delegate to the Constitutional Convention where he championed a minimalist republican model. Following the defeat of the 1999 referendum on the subject, Mr McGarvie initiated the 2001 Corowa Conference to provide focus to the republican movement.

A great family man, despite the demands of his public life, Richard McGarvie was also passionately interested in the life work and times of Charles Joseph La Trobe, and he and his wife Lesley were regular participants at La Trobe Society events. He will be sadly missed.

Dianne Reilly
Hon. Secretary

La Trobe Society Christmas Cards

The 2003 La Trobe Society Christmas Card features a beautiful full-colour illustration of Jolimont 1843-44 showing the La Trobe children in the garden.

The original, from the La Trobe Picture Collection, State Library of Victoria, is a pastel by George Alexander Gilbert.

The cards are now available for \$2.00 each as part of the Society's fund-raising to achieve its aims. Please order now:

Phone: (03) 9626 2112 Fax (03) 9646 6046
Or post cheques to:
The C J La Trobe Society Inc
P O Box 65, Port Melbourne, Vic. 3207



View of Jolimont, 1843-44
George Alexander Gilbert
La Trobe Picture Collection, State library of Victoria

Jolimont: Three Sides of a Square

The text of the first of three talks on given at the Annual General Meeting on 20 August 2003 by Robyn Riddett, Associate Director, Allom Lovell & Associates, follows:

London Squares

In a small tome published in 1977 entitled *The Pleasure Gardens: an Illustrated History of Gardening'* Anne Scott-James, of BBC *My Word* fame, and Osbert Lancaster, stated in a chapter on the London Square:

The communal garden of a residential square is a London specialty with no counterpart abroad.

Back in 1907 one E. Beresford Chancellor, M.A., surveyor of London's squares, stated that the square

as we know it, that is, a residential quarter, is essentially an English institution. It is neither exactly analogous to the French Place, the Italian Piazza, or the German Platz, nor do we find [it] on the Continent, to take but this quarter of the globe, any collection of private houses, the inhabitants of which have a sort of prescriptive right over the ground on which their residences abut, as have those in the residential square of London

When first asked to give this paper on the London squares, I delved into their origins and planning and this was to be the thrust of the paper until I discovered their social history and eccentricities which I found to be captivating.

The squares were more than often not square, being all shapes and sizes including rectangular, triangular, wedge-shaped and circular. The earliest were speculative developments and included Covent Garden (1631), Leicester Square (1635) and Lincoln Inn's Fields of 1638. Most, however, seem to have been established in the 18th century as part of the expansion and rebuilding of London after the Great Fire of 1666, although a number were still being established in the late nineteenth century.

The squares were essentially residential developments set about the boundaries of a central garden area which originally retained the idea of the countryside which was soon to be enveloped in urban expansion. The squares were essential to London as they all formed

part of that great organic whole, that wonder and mystery, that microcosm of the universe, London!

In connection with the squares, Samuel Johnson proclaimed

London is nothing to some people, but to a man whose pleasure is intellectual, London is the place.

Berkeley Square is one the oldest and most important squares in the west end. Formed in the early 18th century on part of the gardens of Berkeley House, then in the country, by Messrs. Cock and Hilliard, described as carpenters, it covered about three acres and soon attracted the attention of the well-to-do, including Horace Walpole, the Earl of Bute and Lord Shelburne. It was

enclosed by dwarf brick walls, and wooden rails and palisades set thereon.

The singing nightingales evidently came later. Today Berkeley Square is characterised by several large London plane (*Platanus*) trees but otherwise has a rather mundane landscape.

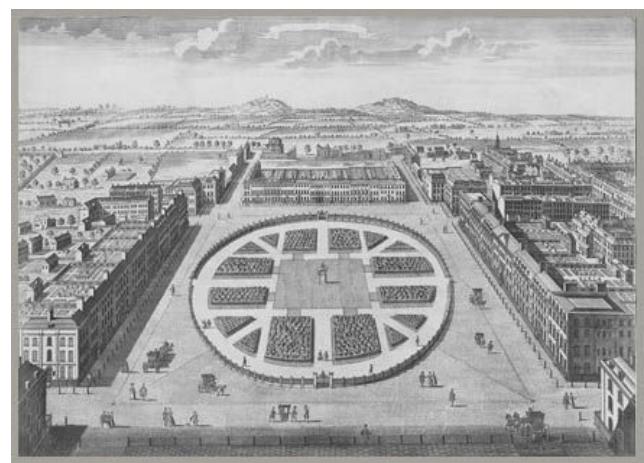
Contrastingly, Grosvenor Square, in terms of size and importance is one the great squares of London. From the outset it was intended to put all other squares 'into the shade'. Grosvenor Square has been described as being:

The very focus of feudal grandeur, fashion, taste and hospitality.

And a writer in 1805 styled it as 'The most magnificent square in the metropolis.'

Laid out in 1695 by Sir Richard Grosvenor, a builder whose reputation rivalled that of the Duke of Bedford, it was completed by 1725. Of the square, one Mrs Montague wrote to her sister in 1744:

As to the house you mention in Grosvenor Square, I think the fault cannot be in the goodness of the house or situation, for as I take it, they are all calculated for large fortunes.



Grosvenor Square 1745

The first house built about the square cost £7,000 and was sold to the Duke of Norfolk while the land remained in Grosvenor's possession for 84 years netting him a ground rent of £42 per annum.

Grosvenor Square was also a favourite locale for thieves, being one of the last squares to be electrified. Dr Johnson was observed to follow:

a sturdy thief who had stolen his handkerchief in Grosvenor Square, [and] seize him by the collar with both hands, and shake him violently, after which he quickly let him loose, and then with his open hand, give him so powerful smack to the face, that sent him off the pavement staggering.

In 1708 Cavendish Square was surrounded by clay pits but by 1717 it was laid out with a central garden enclosed with a low wall surmounted by wooden railings and planted with shrubs. There were 577 houses in 1739 and 9,000 in 1806. Public improvements such as a chapel and market were constructed to encourage builders to take up leases. The first house was erected by Benson, Lord Bingley and was subsequently owned by the Duke of Portland. It has since been demolished but was described as

One of the most singular pieces of architecture in the town, rather like a convent than the residence of a man of quality, a copy of one of Poussin's landscape ornaments than a design to imitate any of the genuine beauties of building.

This house was the model which William Thackeray used for Gaunt House in *Vanity Fair*.

Before the formation of Red Lion Square, the open fields were used for recreation and amusement, including an attempt to set up a Spanish style bull ring, a proposal which was scotched by the unmasking of the Popish Plot in 1685. The square, its name taken from the famous Red Lion Inn in Holborn, was formed about 1684 by Dr Nicholas Barebone, son of Praise-God Barebone, and who was described as a 'remarkable man.' He was a great builder, inventor of fire insurance and a successful banker



Cavendish Square, 1820
who offered to lend the king two million pounds to pay for the war. No less remarkable was the construction of the square itself. Barebone had:

employed several workmen to goe on with the same, the gentlemen of Graies Inn took notice of it, and, thinking it an injury to them, went with a considerable body of 100 persons, upon which the workmen assaulted the gentlemen, and flung bricks at them, and the gentlemen at them again, so a sharp engagement ensued, but the gentlemen routed them at the last, and brought away one or two of the workmen to Graies Inn in this skirmish one or two of the gentlemen and servants of the house were hurt, and severall of the workmen.

Red Lion Square was also a favourite spot for duels and included at least two notorious criminals amongst its residents. One, John Aislabie, MP, was convicted by the House of Commons of 'most notorious, dangerous and infamous corruption' and ended up in the Tower as a consequence while another, a Mr Knightly, was implicated in a plot to assassinate William III on his way to hunt in Richmond Great Park in 1696. Sentenced to death, Knightly was later banished to the countryside.

No 17 Red Lion Square was also home to Pre-Raphaelites Dante Gabriel Rosetti, Edward Burne-Jones and William Morris. Rosetti, was the first to move in, paying a rent of four guineas per month. A condition of the lease was that

The [artists'] models are to be kept under some gentlemanly restraint, as some artists sacrifice the dignity of art to the baseness of passion.

By 1856 Rosetti had vacated his rooms and Morris and Burne-Jones moved in to

a first floor set of three rooms, the large room in front looked north, and its window had been heightened up to the ceiling to adapt it to use as a studio, behind it was a bedroom (occupied by Burne-Jones) and behind that another small bedroom (used by Morris).

Daily life was evidently packed with amusement as Morris gradually filled the rooms with mediaeval furniture and a giant settle.

We were out when it reached the house, but when we came in all the passages and the staircase were choked with vast blocks of timber and there was a scene ... but set up was finally [achieved] and our studio was one third less in size. Rosetti came. This was always a terrifying moment to the very last. He laughed but approved.



Burne-Jones & Morris with their families, c.1876

Rosetti then joined in the decoration, painting panels of cupboards and the settle. Soon after Burne-Jones again reported that

We are quite settled here now. The rooms are so comfortable not very furnished at present but they will be soon ... Today [Morris] has had some furniture [chairs and table] made after his own design, they are as beautiful as medieval work, and when we have painted designs of knights and ladies upon them they will be perfect marvels.

It was probably one of these chairs from which Morris, a bird fancier who also kept an owl in the rooms, used to launch himself in imitation of an eagle which he evidently did

with considerable skill and humour, climbing onto a chair and, after a sullen pause, coming down with a soft heavy flap.

Tavistock Square was laid out about 1800 and Russell Square a year later. Both were formed under an Act of Parliament by which the owner of the land in fee simple, together with other persons, was appointed for five years to undertake the works after which the owner and the occupiers of the houses were appointed as Commissioners to regulate the central gardens which were for the exclusive use of the landowner and the occupiers. This was probably the first body corporate, as we know it today, which was also empowered to levy a rate up to £1 on the yearly rental or value of the houses and another rate for maintenance not exceeding sixpence in the pound.

Tavistock Square was named after the second title, the Marquis of Tavistock, of the owner, the Duke of Bedford, who retained control

over the garden area and had a statue of himself erected. The garden was enclosed and planted with trees in 1825.

From 1851-60 Charles Dickens was a resident whose house was described by Hans Christian Anderson

In Tavistock Square stands Tavistock House. This and the strip of garden in front of it are shut out from the thoroughfare by an iron railing. A large garden with a grass plot and high trees stretches behind the house, and gives it a countrified look. In the passage from street to garden hung pictures and engravings. Here stood a marble bust of Dickens; and over a bedroom door and a dining room door were inserted the bas-reliefs of Night and Day, after Thorwaldsen. On the first floor was a rich library with a fireplace and a writing-table, looking out on the garden, the kitchen was underground and at the top of the house were bedrooms.

It was here that *Hard Times*, *Little Dorritt*, *Hunted Down* and part of *Great Expectations* were written.

But back to the squares. In December, 1803 celebrated landscape designer and horticulturalist, John Claudius Loudon, wrote to the Literary Journal on his views for the landscaping of London's residential squares.

Authors over the centuries have perpetuated the myth that Loudon complained of gloomy conifers and yews and recommended plane trees to cope with London's smoke. In fact he did not mention any of these but did suggest the planting of almonds, the Mezereon, the snowdrop tree, laurustinus and perfumed plants, the softening of edges and keeping the levels of paths the same as the lawn. He recommended planting in groups to appear natural or in harmony and all to afford views in and out of the square.

Conclusions

Squares were just as important as places of private recreation and civic improvement as they were for residential development and gardening. They were enclosed to create the feel of a private garden and to enable exclusive use by the residents, the land was never sold but rented by the occupiers, generally from hereditary owners and the management of the square gave rise to a type of body corporate to look after the gardens. The early squares were the preserve of the wealthy and fashionable, and were satirised by Oscar Wilde as an indication of worth. Poor Jack Worthing, resident of 149 Belgrave Square, cites his address in an attempt to impress his future mother-in-law, Lady Bracknell who remarked

The unfashionable side. I thought there was something. However that could easily be altered.

Jack: Do you mean the fashion or the side?

Lady Bracknell: Both, if necessary I presume.

We can only speculate what Palmer had in mind at Jolimont Square and how it might have turned out if it had gone ahead.

Robyn Riddett

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A Governor and his Paintbrush Port Phillip sketches 1839-1854 by Charles Joseph La Trobe

The National Trust of Australia (Victoria) Mornington Peninsula branch and the La Trobe Society of Australia in association with the Mornington Peninsula Regional Gallery held this fine exhibition of La Trobe's works from 2 September to 19 October 2003.

The exhibition highlighted 27 sketches and watercolours produced by La Trobe on his many visits to all parts of Victoria between 1839 and 1854, first as Superintendent of the Port Phillip District, and later as Lieutenant-Governor of Victoria.

From an English Huguenot family, he was not only a professional administrator but also an accomplished artist, keen alpinist and amateur scientist. Washington Irving, the noted American



The Pulpit. Cape Schanck, 1848

National Trust of Australia (Victoria) Collection, State Library of Victoria

writer, described La Trobe in 1835 as a 'sketcher of no mean pretensions'. The body of work from which this exhibition was selected recorded the mountains, plains and coastlines of our fledgling state – ranging from the Grampians to Cape Schanck.

Of particular interest were his sketches of Sullivan's Bay, Sorrento, 1835, the site of the first European settlement in Victoria 200 years ago. This was only the second exhibition in 150 years of La Trobe's unique contribution to the artistic heritage of Victoria. It also formed the Mornington Peninsula Regional Gallery's contribution to the local '200th Anniversary of Victoria's First European Settlement: Sorrento 1803-2003' activities.



AGL Shaw La Trobe Lecture 2003

The AGL Shaw La Trobe Lecture is a highlight of the calendar of both the Royal Historical Society of Victoria and the La Trobe Society. This year, Ray Wright, Usher of the Black Rod in the Victorian Parliament, presented the second of these lectures 'Learning to Legislate – Victoria's First Legislative Council 1851-1856' to a joint meeting of the Societies on 18 June. He gave a fascinating insight into this short-lived body and its importance in the establishment of the parliamentary process as we know it today.

So many of La Trobe's friends and acquaintances were brought to life by Dr Wright including: 'Garryowen', William Lonsdale, John Pascoe Fawkner, William Campbell, Hugh Childers, John Foster, William Stawell, John O'Shanassy and James Palmer.

To actually establish the first Legislative Council in pre-goldrush Victoria with so much opposition, and to actually make it operate – to conduct a prodigious amount of business under such irregular circumstances – is much to La Trobe's credit. Dr Wright gave those present an understanding of the complications of our early legislature, and a graphic picture of the period in Melbourne, in a most delightful way. It was a stimulating and very informative lecture on one aspect of La Trobe's administration.

Dianne Reilly
Hon. Secretary

SWISS FAMILIES IN GIPPSLAND

Two distinct groups of families of Swiss descent came to Gippsland in the nineteenth century. One settled at Briagolong, with names like Wuillemin and Estoppey. The other group selected farms in south Gippsland in the Yinnar-Boolarra and Korumburra areas, with names such as Deppeler, Nadenbousch, Pettavel, Aeschlimann and Amiet.

The two groups, however, have a common origin. They were originally part of a Swiss emigration to Victoria which was encouraged by Victoria's first ruler, Lt Governor Charles La Trobe. La Trobe's wife, Sophie de Montmollin, was French Swiss from the town of Neuchatel near the border with France. The Neuchatel district was a wine growing area.

People had reason to emigrate from the Neuchatel area in the 1850s because it was a time of political disturbances: there were disputes between Catholics and Protestants, and two republican uprisings occurred in Neuchatel designed to end Prussian influence there. Between 1849 and 1861 over 130 people from the Neuchatel and Vaud cantons applied for passports to enter Victoria under a scheme encouraged by Lt Governor La Trobe.

The Swiss who came to Victoria from the 1850s did not go, as many others did in that decade, to the goldfields of Bendigo and Ballarat. They settled mainly in two places. Some went to the Lilydale and Yarra Glen area in the upper Yarra Valley.

The most famous of these families were the de Castella brothers of St Hubert's vineyard at Yering, whose wines won international awards. Other Swiss families in this region included Deschamps and Du Bury. The Briagolong Swiss are connected with the Yarra Valley Swiss.

Other Swiss families settled the Barrabool hills to the immediate south-west of Geelong in the Waurn Ponds area, and began to establish vineyards there. The Boolarra-Yinnar and Korumburra Swiss families derive from this Geelong group.

In the late 1860s a Swiss man named Louis Wuillemin came to see the de Castellas for advice. Wuillemin had had an interesting career. Born in the Canton of Vaud, which is adjacent to Neuchatel, in 1835, Louis was an all-rounder. A graduate in languages from the Sorbonne University, he had taught at Nizhny Novgorod in Russia, and was also a painter.

He was familiar with tobacco growing from his home region, his grandfather, J Grandjean, being one of the biggest tobacco manufacturers in Switzerland.

Though a scholar and unused to manual labour, Louis decided to become a farmer, and chose the fertile region of Briagolong north of Sale as a suitable region for his agricultural enterprises.



Hop Pickers at Briagolong
State Library of Victoria Picture Collection

He selected two blocks there in 1868, one on alluvial flats in an area he called the Delta, as Freestone Creek there spread out into a morass, and another on a mountain slope.

Briagolong was an immensely productive area. The local historian, Laurie Manning, says it was like a Garden of Eden in the late 19th century, growing 'opium, tobacco, hops, apples, plums, mulberry, cherries, grapes, wines, bee farms, filberts and some interesting varieties of potato'.

Louis Wuillemin began by growing opium, but soon moved into planting tobacco and making cigars, which proved profitable. He built a cottage and married Elizabeth Mauritz; they had five children, but his wife and daughter tragically drowned, and his son was later killed in a horse accident. In the 1880s Wuillemin began to plant grapes, first table grapes, then for wine. He had five acres of grapes, including riesling, burgundy and white hermitage.

His Delta Winery conducted its own crushings, the first of which was in 1885. Hubert De Castella visited him at Briagolong in 1886, and was impressed with the quality and abundance of his grapes. The soil was suitable, being composed of clay and gravel, with a layer of sandy loam on top - Wuillemin was producing fine high country, cool climate wines. Later Louis moved also into producing silk, with the encouragement of Baron Von Mueller. He died in 1911 at age 74.

Near Wuillemin's property Hubert de Castella noted two bachelor brothers, growing grapes as well as vegetables and fruit. One of them, he remembered, had worked for the de Castellas at St Hubert's. They were one of the two sets of Estoppey brothers from Switzerland, either Ferdinand and Charles, who had one farm, or Albert and Henry, who had another at Briagolong.

By the 1880s the Estoppeys had 10 acres of table and wine grapes, growing hermitage and other grapes. They also grew vegetables and hops, were also noted for their cider, and Ferdinand kept bees. Joe Gillio had 20 acres of muscatel grapes in the district. In 1889 Wuillemin and the Estoppeys obtained

vignerons' licenses to sell their vintages. In the first decade of last century, a descendant, Jack Wuillemin, ran a wine hall opposite the Briagolong railway station. There are Wuillemin and Estoppey descendants living in Gippsland today.

Hubert de Castella has two chapters on the Wuillemin winemaking venture at Briagolong in his book *John Bull's Vineyard* (1886). The history of Swiss families at Briagolong has been researched by Laurie Manning in his book *Discovering Briagolong* (1994).

Another five Swiss families came to south Gippsland after first settling in the Geelong area: the Deppeler, Amiet, Nadenbousch and Pettavel families, who selected land in the Yinnar-Boolarra area, and the Aeschlimann family, who moved to Arawata near Korumburra.

Many of the Geelong Swiss came from the market town of Boudry, a town near Neuchatel on the Lac de Neuchatel and the centre of a wine area.

The Yinnar and Boolarra Swiss group came from Geelong vigneron, and settled in Gippsland after selection blocks were opened up in the late 19th century. These families left the grape-growing industry in the Geelong area because *phylloxera* devastated the vines from 1879 onwards.



Professor Louis Wuillemin's home, 'The Delta' Valencia Creek Road. The remains of this historic building can be seen on the west side of the Freestone just over the Delta Bridge. Inset: Prof Louis Wuillemin
Discovering Briagolong

The Pettavels were an extensive family of long standing from Bôle near Boudry. Henri Pettavel, whose mother's maiden name was Boillet, emigrated from Bôle in 1872 to take over his uncle David Pettavel's vineyard, called the Victoria Vineyard, near Geelong, after David, who had emigrated in the early 1840s, died in 1871. David was one of Victoria's first vigneron and set up the 'Victoria' vineyard in 1848. There is still today a district and a railway station named 'Pettavel' immediately south-west of Geelong. Henri Pettavel ran the vineyard with Frederic Marendaz, until it was sold in 1879.

With his wife, neé Rose Marendez, and their three children, Henri Pettavel selected a block at Budgeree near Boolarra in 1890, being the second settler in the area. They had two more children there. Although the hill farm was not suitable for grapes, Pettavel developed an orchard, and had a cider press built to make cider from apples. The Pettavel parents left the area when they brought a property at Springvale in 1912. As none of his four sons married, the name Pettavel died out in the Budgeree-Boolarra area.

The Nadenbouschs were of German origin from Peseux, a town just outside Neuchatel. Alphonse-Joseph Nadenbousch came from a vigneron family to Victoria in 1862, and spent his first ten years in the colony years at Moorabool near Geelong in the wine business. In 1873 he married Bertha Deppeler, who was also Swiss and a sister of John Frederick Deppeler, and they had seven children. In the same year they selected a farm in the Hazelwood parish between Morwell and Yinnar, just south of where the Hazelwood power station now stands. The family became dairy farmers. In 1900 letters from South Africa from Private John Nadenbousch serving in the Boer War were published in the *Morwell Advertiser*.

The Deppeler family, like the Nadenbouschs, were of German Swiss origin, coming from the canton of Aargau south of the Rhine. In Victoria they ran the 'Imperial' vineyard of ten acres ten miles from Geelong. In 1869 John Frederick Deppeler arrived and worked on the Deppeler vineyards near Geelong. In 1872 he married Janet Nimmo from the Western District, and a decade later, after the vines became diseased, he became a grazier near Geelong, and then moved to Yinnar South in Gippsland near his Nadenbousch relatives at Hazelwood. The Deppelers had seven children when they arrived in Gippsland and another two, Archibald and Albert, after they settled there. When the last two sons eventually inherited the family farm, Archibald called his portion 'Berme' and Albert his portion 'Lucerne'. Muscatel grapes were grown by the family at Yinnar South. The Nadenbousch family later bought a block at Yinnar South near their Deppeler relatives.

The Amiet family were a large family of long standing in Boudry. The Amiet and Aeschlimann families had intermarried in Switzerland, Susanne Aeschlimann marrying Abraham Amiet. After her death Abraham Amiet remarried, had two sons, Louis-Phillipe and Alfred, and came to Port Philip district on the "Earl of Claremont" in 1856, settling in Geelong. The brothers Frederick William and Jean Francois Amiet, his cousins, had arrived some time earlier. Frederick married Rose Pellett in 1854. Her mother, Charlotte Pellett, had been a maid in the La Trobe family residence at Jolimont. When La Trobe's wife Sophie returned ill to Switzerland, Charlotte looked after the household.

Both Frederick William and Jean Francois' families set up in Gippsland. Frederick's son Charles took up a selection block at Strzelecki between Warragul and Korumburra in 1886. Frank, son of Jean Francois, selected at Driffield near Morwell. At both places today there is an Amiet's Road. In the 1880s Frank's brother Alfred Amiet set up an ironworking business in Geelong West, with a branch at Morwell. Frank's son, also known as Frank, had a very large family of about 14 children, some of whom lived in the Boolarra area.

The Aeschlimann family is from Langnau in the Canton of Berne; they were vignerons and moved to Neuchatel Canton. Charles-Louis Aeschlimann, born 1824, emigrated in 1854 on the 'Lloyd' and founded the 'Sugar Loaf' vineyard in the Barrabool Hills. There Mrs Rose Amiet, a relative, was a neighbour. He married Margaret McMillan in 1866, and they had seven children. Charles died in 1879. *Phylloxera* and a flood on the Barwon River in 1880 forced Margaret Aeschlimann and her children to move to Deans March, which is between Colac and Lorne.

In 1897 Margaret purchased a property originally selected by the Salmon family, 'Ruby Park', Arawata, near Korumburra. The property is reported in *The Land of the Lyrebird* as being ablaze in the 1898 bushfires. In 1904 Margaret Aeschlimann divided the property between her sons.

Some of these five families were French Swiss, others German Swiss; all were of Protestant background. I wish to thank members of these families for providing information on their ancestors. Details on the Swiss of Geelong have been obtained from John Tetaz's book From Boudry to the Barrabool Hills: Swiss Vignerons of Geelong (1995). The prominent Tetaz family was related to both the Amiet and Pettavel families.

Patrick Morgan



On the Barwon River near Fyan's Ford, Geelong
J Tingle, engraver, 1857
La Trobe Picture Collection
State Library of Victoria Picture Collection

LA TROBE JOURNAL

A special edition of the State Library of Victoria Foundation's scholarly La Trobe Journal, edited by Professor John Barnes, has just been published. As the Editor himself has stated: 'It seems appropriate that the La Trobe Journal should mark the reopening of the Dome as the La Trobe Reading Room by devoting an issue to the man himself.' Almost 200 pages, including little-known material, both texts and graphics, from the Library's collections and from other sources, makes this edition especially appealing to all those with an interest in the life, work and times of Charles Joseph La Trobe.

At a special concession price of \$21.50 (including postage) to La Trobe Society members, copies of this issue of the La Trobe Journal may be obtained from the Treasurer by posting your cheques to the La Trobe Society, P.O. Box 65, Port Melbourne, Victoria. 3207.



THE BRONTE CONNECTION

One morning four years ago my 'phone rang and a friend's voice said accusingly, 'I nearly missed my flight to Berlin because of you!' Evidently she'd been at Heathrow - her flight was ready for boarding. She'd rushed into a shop for a Daily Telegraph newspaper mainly to do the crossword puzzle - 'and there,' she said, 'was your name on the front page! Then see page 10. I turned to page 10 and there was such a spread that I almost missed my plane!' And there was a similar spread in almost all the dailies- then mention on 8 radio programmes and a TV interview!

Whatever was all this about? No, I hadn't robbed a bank or committed murder! I'd simply discovered that a girl called JANE EYRE, the title of Charlotte Bronte's famous novel, had lived in Fulneck. A routine review copy with an article of mine was sent by the Bronte Society to the *Yorkshire Post*, and there was all this fuss. However, it does show the tremendous pulling power of the name BRONTE, and the name JANE EYRE, at least in this country, and helps show that the novel is still fresh 150 years after it

was written. Also, as the years pass there seems to be a growing romance, some of it a myth, admittedly, surrounding the lives of the three Bronte sisters writing at Haworth Parsonage on the edge of the moors.

It was my chance discovery in the Fulneck archives which plunged me into Bronte research from the Moravian angle which had not been explored before. When I enquired at the Bronte Parsonage whether they knew of this girl I was told not and that anyway C B had taken her title from some Eyres in Hathersage, Derbyshire where she had stayed in 1845.

But I found out there was no Jane in their family records.

Charlotte Brontë (1816-55)



Well, my Jane Eyre, who was Frances Jane Eyre, had been at Fulneck School and later returned to live in the Single Sister's House, well before that date of 1845. The novel was published in 1847. I'd nothing at first to connect my Jane to Charlotte Bronte. Then, by good chance, we were given in Fulneck, the memoir of a woman who was at school with my Jane Eyre. This memoir was crammed with allusions to people within the Brontes circle of acquaintances. Just one example is the fact that the memoir's writer knew CB's close friend, Ellen Nussey, very well indeed over a long period. Helped by the evidence of this memoir, my short article traced a number of channels whereby the name of this Fulneck girl could have been mentioned and come to the ears of CB well before 1845. I was convinced that she was the source of the novel's title. In her second novel, *Shirley*, CB mentions the Moravians twice.

Where do the LA TROBES come in? I think most of you will be aware of connection between ANNE BRONTE and JAMES LA TROBE, later bishop, the son of JAMES GOTTLIEB. I'll return to that which is my main theme, but there are one or two other Bronte associations to mention.

After that first article I did some more research and I discovered that this Fulneck Jane had a brother called EDWARD JOHN EYRE. The only other Eyre in the novel is a JOHN EYRE. Edward John Eyre, brother of my Jane had emigrated to Australia, made a modest fortune and explored much of central Australia - on the map today you will find Eyre Lake, Eyre Lake Basin and Eyre Peninsula, all named after him, just as

several places in Australia and Tasmania bear the name of LA TROBE. Yes, Eyre was in Australia at the same time as CHARLES JOSEPH LA TROBE - who retired from his post as Governor of Victoria in 1854. Edward John Eyre moved from Australia to become Governor of South Island, New Zealand from 1847-1853.

I corresponded with Dr Drury [Dianne Reilly] as to whether there was evidence of them meeting or writing to each other. Although no such evidence has come to light yet, she agreed that it was highly likely these two very notable men who were involved with the emerging territories would have had contact. I'm still hoping a letter or some other evidence will surface. It's interesting that both men were connected with Fulneck - Charles Joseph having been at school in Fulneck and John Eyre connected through his sister Jane. Also in the novel there is a similarity, the fictional John Eyre emigrated and made a small fortune.

It is probably true to say that all Moravian LA TROBES will have been through Fulneck at some time or other. This large settlement of Fulneck has been, since its beginning in the 18th century, a kind of clearing house for the Moravians.

There was a constant cross current of folks from the ends of the earth, such as missionaries on home leave and frequent visitors from other churches, including notables such as William Wilberforce, who worked so hard for Abolition of slavery. He sponsored the Rev Patrick Bronte, Charlotte's father, financially, at Cambridge and contributed to the Clergy Daughters' School attended by Charlotte and her sisters and portrayed in the novel, *Jane Eyre*. He also gave to Moravian Mission projects and of course, was a friend of CHRISTIAN IGNATIUS LA TROBE. In his role as the Church's Mission Secretary CHRISTIAN IGNATIUS was a very frequent visitor to Fulneck, helping to reinforce the weekly newsletters, and periodical accounts so that the whole missionary church was remarkably well informed.

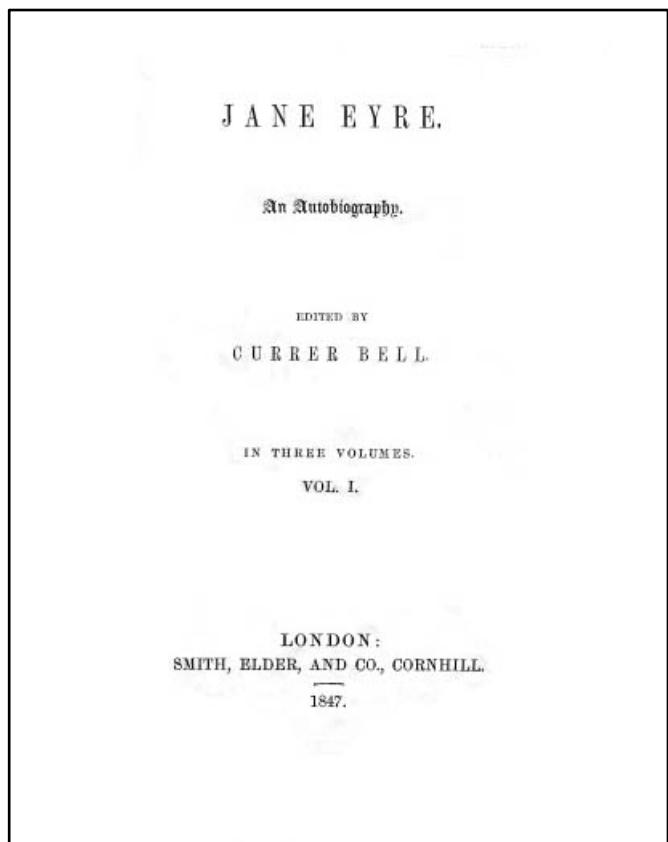
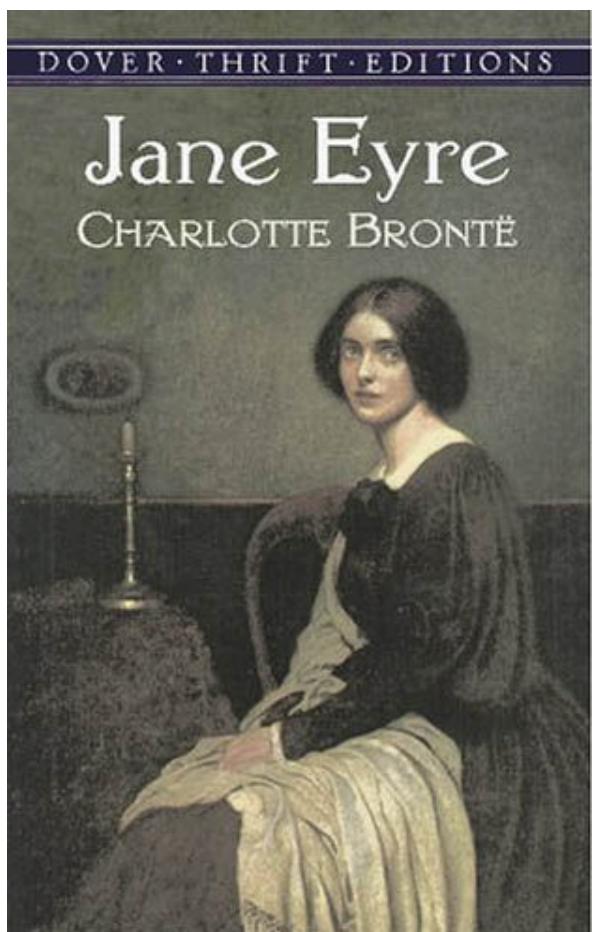
It is possible that the Fulneck Jane Eyre may have met CHRISTIAN IGNATIUS LA TROBE as he was in retirement at Fairfield, just over the Pennines, while she was at school. She would at least have known of him - this is one of the advantages of such a small denomination. He died the year that Jane left school.

Jane returned later to Fulneck and was a lifelong member, even after her marriage to a non-Moravian. At the centenary celebrations of the Moravian work in Yorkshire, in April 1855, three LA TROBES met together, BISHOP JAMES, CHARLES JOSEPH, now retired, and his brother the REV PETER LA TROBE who had followed his father, CHRISTIAN IGNATIUS as Mission Secretary. Our Jane Eyre, would have seen these La Trobes at that time.

Now to the closest Bronte contact - concerning JAMES LA TROBE, later bishop. He came first to

Fulneck aged two and was associated with the settlement, on and off, for over 70 years. It was he who visited Anne Bronte. Over the last few years eminent Bronte scholars have been celebrating Anne's literary talent, feeling she has too long been wrongly over-shadowed by her sisters. I was asked to give a talk at the Bronte parsonage Museum in Haworth, and gave my title, somewhat like a news headline as: THE RESCUE: JAMES LA TROBE AND ANNE BRONTE. This was published later. The evidence was all in a single letter from James La Tobe to his friend William Scruton, a member of the Horton Moravian Church in Bradford. Scruton was a well known writer on the Brontes, living a little later, but gathering material from those who had known the Brontes, in the flesh, hence his request to James La Tobe for information.

James wrote that the 17 year old Anne Bronte was very ill while a pupil at Roe Head Boarding School near Mirfield in 1837. She had sent an urgent message to him asking him to visit her. He responded and visited her several times more. James wrote: 'She was suffering from a severe attack of gastric fever... her voice was only a whisper; her life hung on a slender thread.' It seems remarkable that ill as she was this very shy teenager should contact someone she had never met while surrounded at Roe Head by a number of Church of England clergymen whom she knew well. But James commented, 'She soon got over the shyness natural on seeing a perfect stranger.'



Two questions come to mind - why did she send for a Moravian minister she didn't know and in view of her subsequent recovery of health and peace of mind - what was it that James La Trobe rescued her from?

The idea of Election or Pre-destination caused widespread fears - there were many deathbed panics. If they were not among the Elect, the Chosen of God, and who knew who was, then they would be for annihilation or endless torment. We see something of this in the previous century, when the great Dr Johnson of Dictionary fame was on his deathbed in London. Hannah More tells us that he summoned a Moravian minister several times to come and speak to him of salvation. That minister was our James' uncle, the Rev BENJAMIN LA TROBE, formerly the minister of Fulneck.

So why Moravians? Well, they had always maintained that all men and women could be saved by God's grace, unearned but freely given to all who repent and wish a new life, a justification by faith rather than by works only. John Wesley, founder of the Methodists, was much influenced by this. It seems most likely that Anne Bronte had heard of the Moravians' slant on salvation which decided her to send for James La Tobe, minister at the nearby Moravian settlement at Mirfield.

Anne had soon recovered peace of mind but we may ask whether there was any long lasting benefit to her from James' visits and conversation. It is difficult to assess. However, six years later Anne wrote an angry poem, called 'A Word to the Elect,' attacking the idea of pre-destination. It was obviously heart felt. Then on publication of her novel, *The Tenant of*

Wildfell Hall, in 1848, a Rev David Thom wrote to congratulate her on its strong hints of universal salvation. Anne replied that she had long held this view, 'with a trembling hope at first, and afterwards with a firm and glad conviction of its truth.' She added that she was delighted to find that universal salvation was 'boldly advocated by benevolent and thoughtful minds.' We can safely assume that James La Trobe was one of the foremost to confirm Anne's 'trembling hope' in a compassionate God.

When her time finally arrived - 'She died magnificently' as I heard an eminent Bronte speaker put it. Anne had seen six family deaths at the Parsonage in Haworth. She was under no illusions about her state - she knew that her diagnosis was terminal consumption. Her only regret was for the projects which now she couldn't carry out, -possibly more novels? But she told her sister Charlotte, 'I am very happy,' just before she quietly departed this life, aged 29. A poem of hers, 'Spirit of Faith', written three years before her death, could be said to be her mission statement, and surely James La Trobe played a leading part in supporting Anne's long term spirit of faiilkThese are the last two verses of her poem, often used as a hymn - it is in the current Moravian hymn book:

Through pain and death I can rejoice.
Spirit of Faith. I'll go with thee,
If but thy strength be mine;
Thou, if I hold thee fast
Earth hath no music like thy voice.
Wilt guide, defend and strengthen me,
Life owns no joy like thine.
And bear me home at last.

Anne Bronte

JAMES LA TROBE AND JAMES CONNOR

I should like to pay a personal tribute to JAMES LA TROBE over another rescue about 40 years later than Anne Bronte's. Bishop James was exceedingly kind to my great grandfather, the REV JAMES CONNOR. I read about this in my great grandmother's journal. James Connor suffered much through chronic sleeplessness. He would go for months without a good night's sleep and in the days before sleeping tablets this was a serious health problem. Well, feeling that he was on the edge of a nervous breakdown and it was unfair to the church if he couldn't cope, he resigned the ministry. At the time he had a heavy workload - he was at Mirfield, with the congregation work and also oversight of the boarding school.

JAMES LA TROBE, who knew Mirfield well, was on the church's provincial directing board at the time, now aged 70. He immediately took charge of the Mirfield work and packed JAMES CONNOR, his wife and two year old son off to his own home at Ockbrook - and he ignored the resignation! Very soon he arranged for JAMES CONNOR to go to a small

church on the south coast for a rest cure. We have a letter from the Bishop about this.

My great grandfather soldiered on and twenty years later had the honour of being elected onto the world wide Moravian governing body. If it wasn't for that timely rescue by BISHOP LA TROBE, he would have been lost to the church and possibly lost as a person and there wouldn't have been the long line of his descendants serving the Moravian Church.

That two year old son I mentioned was my grandfather and a bishop, and he died when I was 17. I can remember him taking his pipe out of his mouth and speaking of 'BR LA TROBE', whom he knew and I saw a synod photo with both of them on it. So thankyou, James La Trobe!

Margaret Connor
Archivist, Fulneck Moravian Settlement
Yorkshire



Appealing to all Members!

To help the La Trobe Society grow and achieve its aim of offering a Charles Joseph La Trobe Fellowship – and to erect a statue of La Trobe himself – we would be very grateful if unfinancial members could renew their membership – now!

We also ask if members could recruit interested people to join the Society. A Membership form is included in this Newsletter. More information can be obtained by ringing 03-03-9646 2112.

Contributions of articles for the Newsletter are welcomed. They should be directed to the Hon. Editor, Dr Fay Woodhouse at:
Fwoodhouse@allom-lovell.com.au

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35 Little Bourke Street, Melbourne Victoria 3000, Australia
Telephone: (03) 9662 3344/Email: ala@allom-lovell.com.au