

CHARLOTTE CLEVELAND 1819-1884—AN EARLY TASMANIAN ARTIST

By

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(With six plates.)

Before the introduction of photography most educated people were taught to sketch. A great deal of our knowledge of early colonial cities, villages and buildings in general is due to the habit such people had of sketching what interested them. Tasmania was very fortunate in this respect. The purpose of this paper is to record what is known of Charlotte Cleveland, an amateur artist who left behind a few sketches of considerable historical interest. The information in this account has come firstly from Mr. A. H. Weedon, Charlotte Cleveland's grandson, and secondly from an article "The History of the Cleveland or Ainslie Estate" contained in a pamphlet on Cosgrove Park Home published by the Launceston General Hospital when Cosgrove Park was opened.

Charlotte Cleveland (née Barry) was born in London on 20th July 1819. She was the daughter of James Barry and was the niece of Sir Charles Barry (1795-1860) R.A., F.R.S., the architect of the Houses of Parliament in London and of many other public buildings. She was also the cousin of Alfred Barry (born 1826) Bishop of Sydney and Primate of Australia (1884-1889), Canon of Windsor (1891), Assistant Bishop of West London (1897), &c., and the author of many theological works; a cousin of Edward Middleton Barry (1830-1880) architect and assistant to his father Sir Charles Barry; and a cousin also of Sir John Wolfe Barry, K.C.B., (1836) an eminent engineer who designed, amongst other structures the Tower Bridge, Kew Bridge and the Barry Docks in London.

Nothing of importance is known of her until 1844 when she married William Charles Cleveland. Before his marriage William Cleveland, accompanied by his brother James, had sailed to Van Diemen's Land in the 1830's in their own schooner, the 'Mumford', and had for some time traded between Launceston and Sydney in that vessel. Whilst in Van Diemen's Land, William Cleveland bought land in several parts of the northern portion of the island, including a property in that part of Launceston then known as the "Sandhills". He named the property "Normanstone" and it included all the land from Peel Street, South Launceston to Machen's brickworks in the south and to the western side of the Dark Hollow beyond Westbury Road. During this time James died and was buried in the cemetery in Cyprus Street, Launceston. After James died, William returned to England and married Charlotte Barry in 1844.

After their marriage William and Charlotte Cleveland lived in England and on the Continent

for eight years. During this period it is presumed that Charlotte Cleveland pursued her art whilst travelling in Europe, as a drawing by her of a view in Venice is in the possession of Mr. A. H. Weedon. During this period four children were born to William and Charlotte. One of them, a daughter named Rose, who was later to become Rose Weedon, was born in Brussels (Belgium) on 19th April 1850.

On 9th April 1852 William and Charlotte and their four children left England for Tasmania in the "Mermaid" and arrived in Launceston on 4th August 1852. They obtained lodgings in a boarding house in York Street (Mrs. McKenzie, proprietor) and later rented a house in Eardley Street, South Launceston. Both these houses are still in existence (1965). William then had a house constructed on his property at "Normanstone" on the Sandhills (1858). The bricks for this house were made by hand on the property by the original Machen who was in William's employ and who later started the brickworks in South Launceston which are still in existence.

William and Charlotte lived at "Normanstone" until 1864, during which time four more children were born. During their residence at "Normanstone" William and Charlotte were largely instrumental in the building of St. Paul's Church in Cleveland Street. A very fine window was presented to the Church by their children in their memory and it is still in the Church. In 1864 they left Launceston to live in Melbourne. Normanstone was then let to the late Henry Edgell, a well-known insurance manager in Launceston, and he and his family lived there for many years. The property was then sub-divided and most was sold. The house and grounds were bought by a Mr. Ainslie who later sold it to the Tasmanian Government. "Normanstone" house was demolished and, what is now called Cosgrove Park was built.

Charlotte Cleveland left Melbourne for a trip to England in February 1871 but in March of that year the ship—"Queen of the Thames"—was wrecked near Durban. Having lost all her possessions in the wreck she, and other survivors, were taken overland in bullock waggons to Cape Town. She finally reached England in May 1871 and returned to Melbourne in 1872.

Owing to the ill-health of William Cleveland the family returned to Launceston about 1877 and lived at "The Hollies" in High Street which was later demolished to make way for the Queen Victoria Hospital, and here William died in 1879.

He was buried in the Cyprus Street Cemetery. After William's death Charlotte moved to the Victoria Parade, Windmill Hill, where she died in 1884. She also was buried in the Cyprus Street Cemetery. A cross erected on the family plot in the Cyprus Street Cemetery bore the names and dates of Charlotte's family but it is not known what has happened to the cross since the cemetery has been turned into a playing field.

The Weedon whom Rose Cleveland married in 1879 was Mr. Hardwicke Weedon a member of an old Tasmanian family. He was a member of the Board of Management of the Launceston General Hospital for fifty-one years and was its Chairman for four. Mr. A. H. Weedon is Mr. Hardwicke Weedon's son.

CHARLOTTE CLEVELAND'S TASMANIAN PICTURES

1. "A View of Christs College, Tasmania"

Beneath is written "The Western Tier forming the background of the picture is eight miles distant. In winter the ridges are covered with snow. Large lakes are on the summit."

The building is shown and is thus described "The Warden's Lodgings are to the left with a low gable and verandah. The tall building next contains the Chapel, Hall and Museum and the building standing back is occupied by the Dormitories and the senior and junior boys' day rooms. The Masters lodgings are in a building hidden by the trees but forming the right side of the Quadrangle. The new iron schoolroom, stands at the back. The little summerhouse to the left belongs to the boys and is in their cricket ground."

Pencil sketch, signed and dated 1856. 17.8 x 25.3 cms.

The view shown is much the same as that of the Butler Stoney's *A Residence In Tasmania*: Smith Elder & Co., London, 1856, page 106 and the above description is best read whilst looking at that engraving. Christ College was intended to be a colonial Harrow. It was opened in 1846 but owing to financial and other difficulties it closed in 1857. The buildings were demolished.

2. "Creek of the North Esk. The bathing place of the boys of Christs College Bishopsbourne with a distant view of part of the Western Tier, Tasmania"

The words "A creek of the" have been crossed out and in another hand the words "The Liffey running into the" have been substituted [It should be South Esk].

Pencil sketch, signed and dated 1856. 17.8 x 25.3 cms.

3. "The Signalling Station & Cottage, Windmill Hill. View of the Cottage at the Flag Staff Station Launceston Tasmania"

Coloured pencil sketch, signed and dated 1854. 13.5 x 19.3 cms.

This is only known picture of this signalling station. It shows both methods of signalling. There is the flagpole from which were hung various coloured flags which indicated to the citizens of Launceston the type of vessel approaching up the river. There is also the semaphore. There were two semaphore signalling systems in Tasmania.

One passed messages between Port Arthur and Hobart by means of five stations. The other conveyed messages between Low Head and Launceston and stations were built on Mount George near George Town, Mount Direction sixteen miles north of Launceston, and on Windmill Hill. The latter system was first used about 1835 and it was closed about 1869.

4. "Windermere Tamar, Tasmania"

Coloured pencil sketch, signed and dated 1856. 22.7 x 30.5 cms.

This shows the Church and Dr. Gaunt's house. Dr. Matthias Gaunt arrived in Van Diemen's Land in 1831. He was granted 2,560 acres on the east Tamar which he named Windermere. With help from others he built the church (1843) which still stands. He also built a house north of the church, and, south of it, on the river bank, a mill. The print of these buildings on page 59 of Bishop Nixon's *The Cruise of the Beacon* London 1857 was taken with the artist looking south. Charlotte Cleveland's view was taken looking north. Only the church and house are shown. The house is partially obscured but it appears to have been built of weatherboard. Only the church now stands.

5. "Windermere Church on the Tamar, Tasmania"

Coloured pencil sketch, signed and dated 1854. 24 x 35.5 cms.

This shows the church and some buildings on the other side of the river.

6. "Ben Lomond from Bostock Hill near Clynevale"

Pencil sketch, signed and dated April 1856 25.5 x 17.4 cms.

The above sketches are in the possession of Dr. C. Craig, Launceston.

7. Hobart Town

There is no caption.

Pencil sketch signed and dated January, 1854. 21.9 x 32 cms.

This drawing is very similar to the lithograph by John Skinner Prout entitled "Hobart Town From The New Town Road".

The above drawing is in possession of Mr. Stewart Ferguson, South Springfield.

8. Launceston

Pencil sketch. 20.6 x 29.5 cms.

This pencil drawing is included as, although it is signed "Chas. Eddy", the Weedon family have always believed that it was drawn by Charlotte Cleveland.

"Partial View of Launceston from the River.

1. Invermay. Mr. W. Henty lives in this hamlet.
2. Valley of the North Esk leading to Patterson's [sic] Plains. In it is The English Cemetery.
3. Flagstaff Station and Windmill Hill. Partial view of Launceston from the River.
4. St. John's Church.
5. St. Andrew's Scotch Church.
6. Wharf.
7. Our Valley and the commencement of the Sand Hills (Norman Stone) as I have called them.
8. White Hills." Signed "Chas Eddy, 1854".

REFERENCES

The details given above are derived from two sources—

1. William Cleveland's diary which is now in the Mitchell Library, Sydney.
2. Charlotte Cleveland's Journal which is in the possession of her grandson Mr. A. H. Weedon of Tatana, near Launceston.



PLATE I.—*A View of Christs College, Tasmania.*

Beneath is written "The Western Tier forming the background of the picture is eight miles distant. In winter the ridges are covered with snow. Large lakes are on the summit." A detailed description of the building then follows. See text.

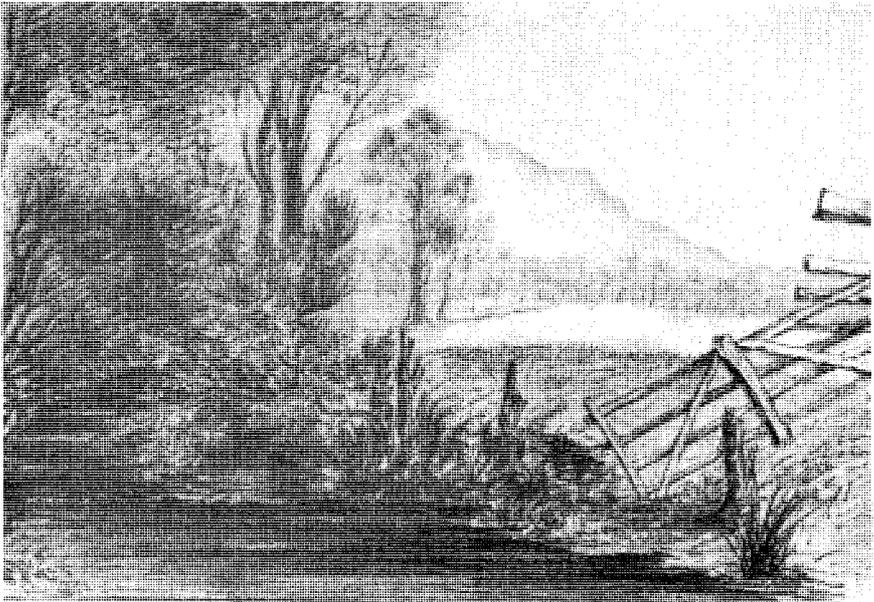


PLATE II.—*Creek of the North Esk.*

The bathing place of the boys of Christs College, Bishopsbourne, with a distant view of part of the Western Tier, Tasmania.

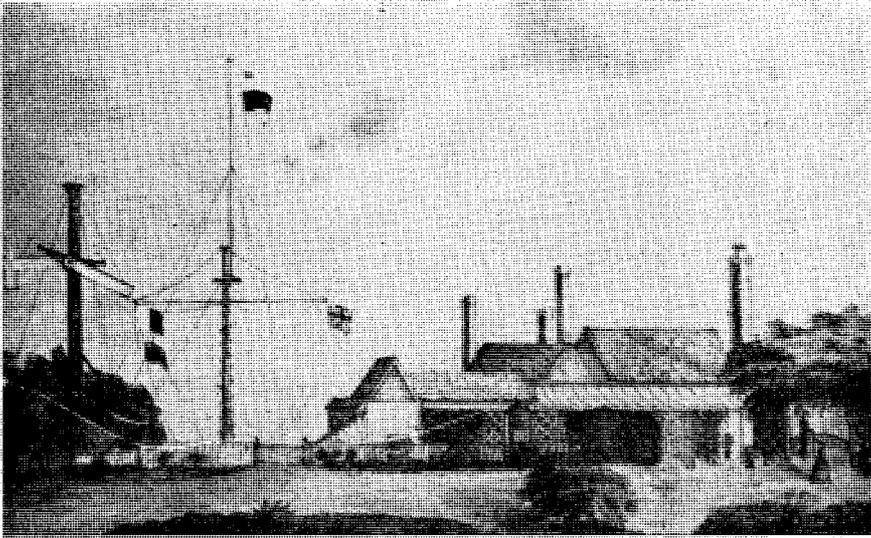


PLATE III.—*The Signalling Station and Cottage, Windmill Hill.*
View of the Cottage at the Flagstaff Station, Launceston, Tasmania.



PLATE IV.—*Windermere, Tamar, Tasmania.*



PLATE V.—*Windermere Church on the Tamar, Tasmania.*
Dr. Gaunt's house is to the right.



PLATE VI.--*Ben Lomond from Bostock Hill, near Clyverale.*