



The Mysterious

Mrs. Prinsep

and

The Old Wharf

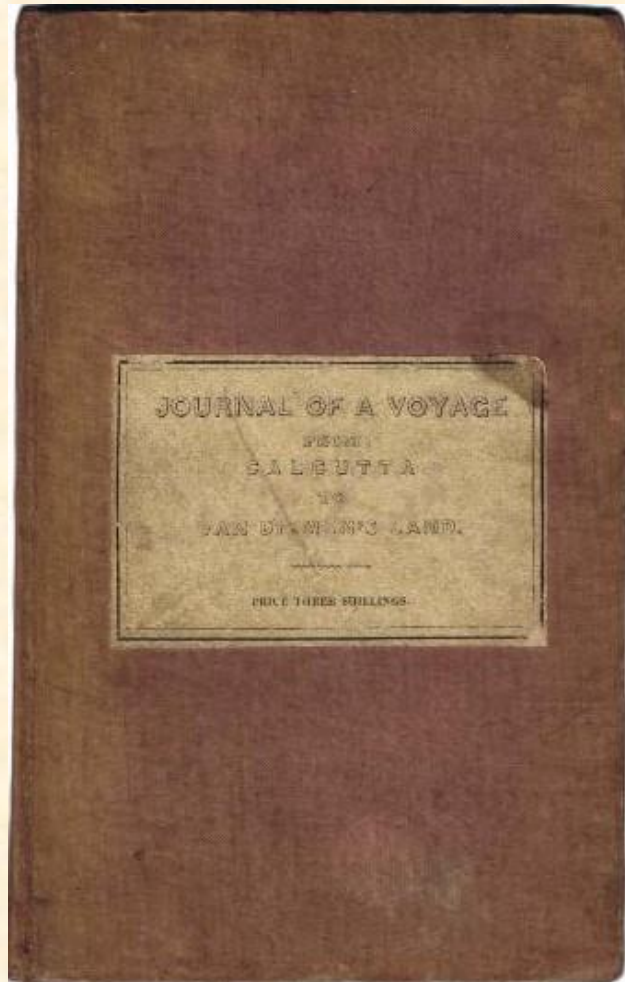
Part 1

The Journal of a Voyage from Calcutta to Van Diemen's Land

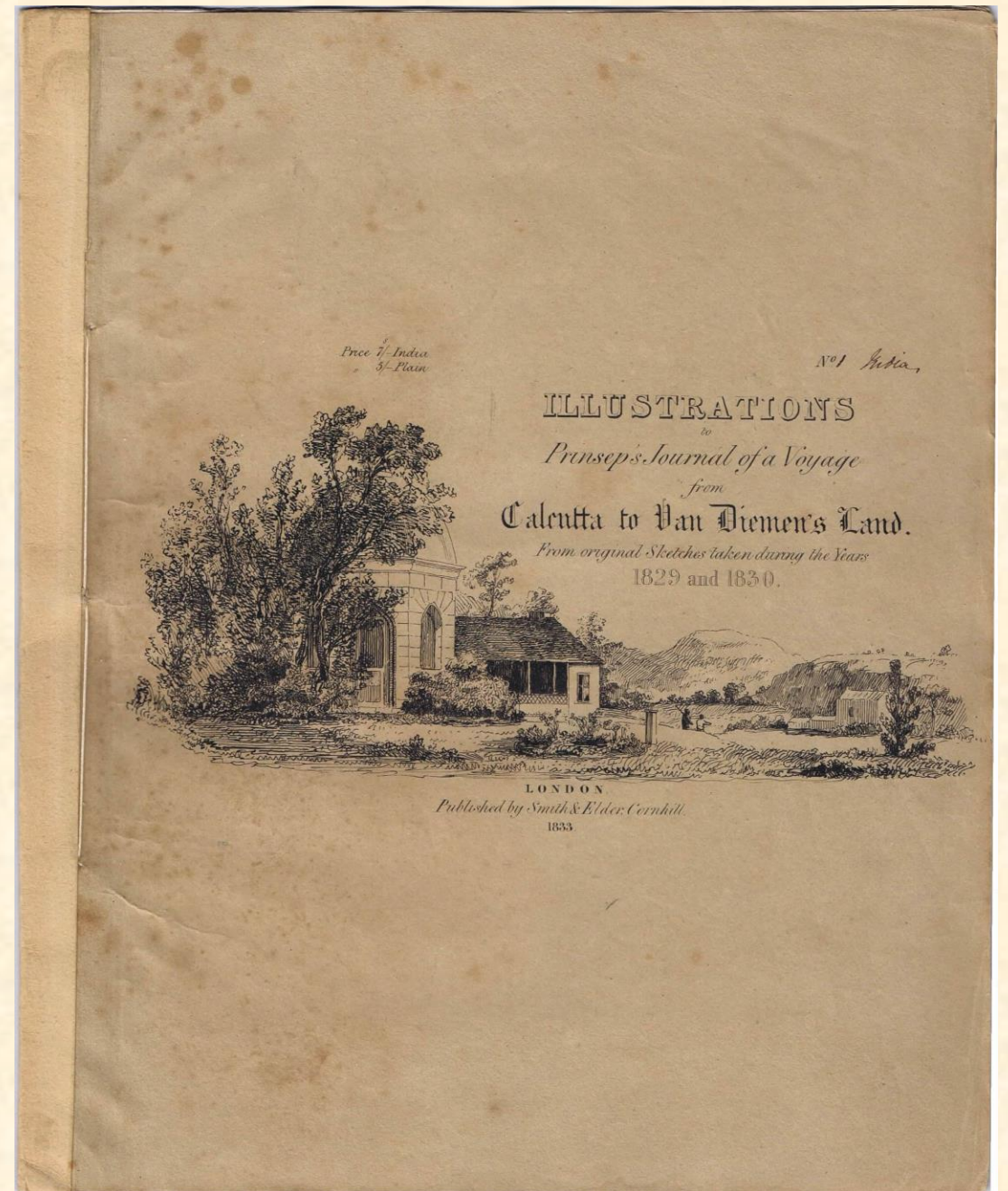
Part 2

Related Characters of the Old Wharf (Hunter Street)

**Mrs Prinsep's Journal
Of a Voyage from Calcutta
to Van Diemen's Land**



The Little Book



Folio of Prints

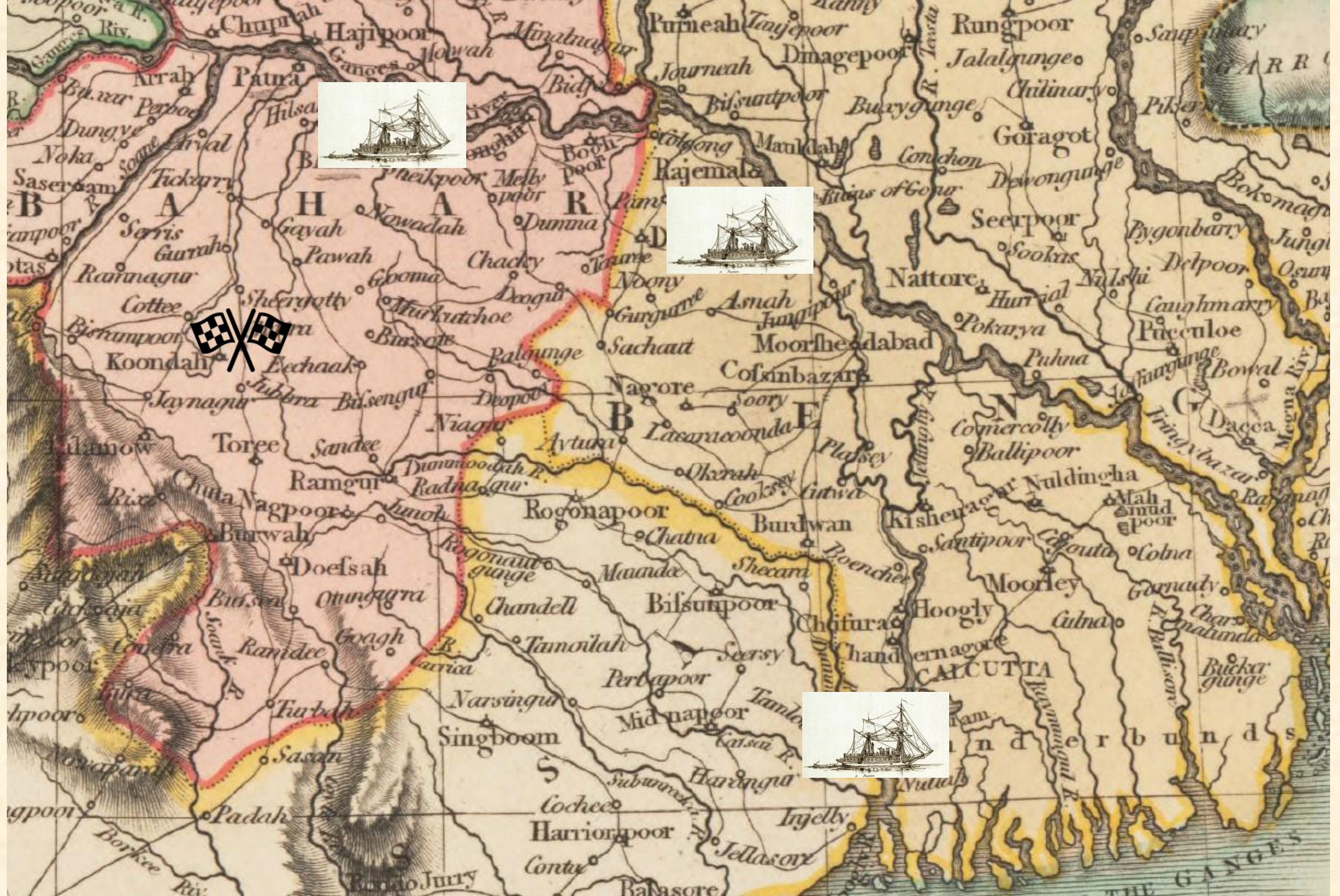


Augustus Prinsep



Elizabeth Ommanney





CALCUTTA

THE GANGES



Augustus and Elisabeth Prinsep (née Ommaney) relaxing at home at Shergati in the Mofussil in November 1828, shortly after Augustus became ill with tuberculosis. The drawing is by James Prinsep and was sent home to his mother, Sophia, as shown by the inscription on the rear of the card, 'For Mama, from J.P.'

Source: Courtesy of anonymously held private collection.

(See Allbrook)

THE
JOURNAL OF A VOYAGE

FROM

CALCUTTA

TO

VAN DIEMEN'S LAND:

COMPRISING

A DESCRIPTION OF THAT COLONY DURING

A SIX MONTHS RESIDENCE.

~~~~~  
*From Original Letters,*

**SELECTED BY**

**MRS. A. PRINSEP.**  
~~~~~

“But Heaven's high fiat is, that we must part,
And I obey!”
~~~~~



## EDITOR'S PREFACE.

THE Letters from which the following pages were compiled, afforded mere passing notices of the places visited, which the abler hand of the lamented writer, had he lived, might have embodied in a shape more fit to engage public attention than can be expected from another, **who is unskilled in all that relates to authorship.**

As, however, curiosity has of late been awakened respecting some of the scenes described, more especially Van Diemen's Land, it was suggested that even these outlines might possess sufficient interest for the general reader, to justify the editor in overcoming her reluctance to offer them in their present form. **The errors of arrangement must rest with herself;** while all that can give such a work its substantial importance namely, the fidelity of the sketches of habits, society, &c. as



## CONTENTS.

---

### LETTER I.

#### PENANG.

Preliminary observations—Straits of Malacca—Arrival at Penang—First appearance of the Island—Description of the Town—Inhabitants—Climate—Interior—Large Tree—Productions—Bengal Expenditure—Visit of Governor General—Return to the Ship.

Digitized by Google

vi

## CONTENTS.

### LETTER II.

#### MALACCA AND SINGAPORE.

Observations on leaving Penang—Malacca—Sketch of Early History—Storm in the Straits—Straits of Singapore—Singapore—Entrance to the Harbour—Description of the Island—Jungul—Climate—Inhabitants—Shipping—Walk on Esplanade—Chinese—Town—Swamp—Chinese Junks—Traffic—Productions—Society—Governor General's Visit.

### LETTER III.

#### BATAVIA.

Leave Singapore—Miseries of a Small Ship—Batavia Roads—Landing—River—Hotel—House and Housekeeping—Provisions—Dutch Troops—Environs of Batavia—Java Village—Governor—Evening Promenade—Dutch Ladies—Exhibition—Chinese—Buitenzorg—Posting.

Digitized by Google

## CONTENTS.

vii

### LETTER IV.

#### VAN DIEMEN'S LAND.

Change of Country—Leave Batavia—Anjir—Straits of Sunda—Last view of Sumatra—Change of Climate—Severe Cold—First View of Van Diemen's Land—Coast—Entrance of River Derwent—Landing at Hobarton—Search of House—Servants—Farm at Newtown.

### LETTER V.

Scenery round Hobarton—Panoramic View from Harbour—Town—Description of—Convicts—Society—Climate.

### LETTER VI.

Description of Newtown—Natural Productions—Gardens at Newtown—Journey to New Norfolk—Roads—Scenery—Roseneath Ferry—Derwent—Elizabeth-town—Bell's-terrace—Whale—Return in Rain—Description of Aborigines.

Digitized by Google

viii

## CONTENTS.

### LETTER VII.

Journey to Launceston—Roseneath Ferry—Constitution Hill—Green Ponds—Cross Marsh—Spring Hill—Jericho—Maria Island—Oatlands—Maxwell—Salt Pan Plains—Ross—Campbell-town—Epping Forest—Clarendon—Launceston—Return by Western River—Norfolk Plains—Woolmers—Pensanger—Campbell-town, &c.

### LETTER VIII.

Statistics of Van Diemen's Land—Investments of Money—Bank—Whale Fisheries—Land—Productions—Farming—Convicts—Swan-River—Population and future prosperity of Van Diemen's Land.

Digitized by Google



# JOURNAL

OF

## A VOYAGE

FROM

CALCUTTA TO VAN DIEMAN'S LAND.

---

---

### LETTER I.

*Penang, March, 1829.*

“ONCE more upon the waters, yet once more,” and I care not whither I go, provided it be in the direction of health. To you, my dear Henry, who like to follow me in my wanderings by sea and by land, I again address myself, even at this unpropitious hour, when weakened by sickness. I have put myself, by the advice of my physicians, on board a small country opium ship, trading between Calcutta and China, intending to touch at

A B

\* What does Augustus mean by the Byronian quote  
“Once more upon the waters, yet once more”

\* Augustus appears to be alone.

Where was Elizabeth?

\* What was the name of the ship?

\* What is a “small country opium ship,  
trading between Calcutta and China?”

\* Precisely when did Augustus sail from Calcutta?

*And as the journal progresses we discover that all the letters are addressed to “My Dear Henry”.*





*Drawn on Stone by T. O. Ommarey Esq<sup>r</sup>,*  
Jetty and Warehouses.

Commercial Tavern.

HOBARTON.

*Printed by C. Hullinswood.*  
\* John Lord Esq<sup>re</sup>



# HOBARTON FROM THE HOTEL

Page 51



G. F. Bennett del.

Printed by C. Halliwell.

HOBARTON FROM THE HOTEL.

With B's house

Print from Tasmanian Library



# HOBARTON FROM THE HOTEL



HOBARTON FROM THE HOTEL.

Print from Tasmanian Library



Pencil Sketch From TMAG



The answers to these questions unfold a landscape of colonial history in the early to mid 1800s.

## Letters VI and VII

- Elizabeth takes us on a journey through Tasmania in 1830 with guides referred to as “F” and “G”.
- They visit New Norfolk and later visit Clarendon, Woolmers and Panshanger
- And the property of someone called “C” near Launceston.







The final letter discusses the benefits of Van Diemen's Land compared to the Swan River settlement of 1829, and the largest land fraud in Australian history.

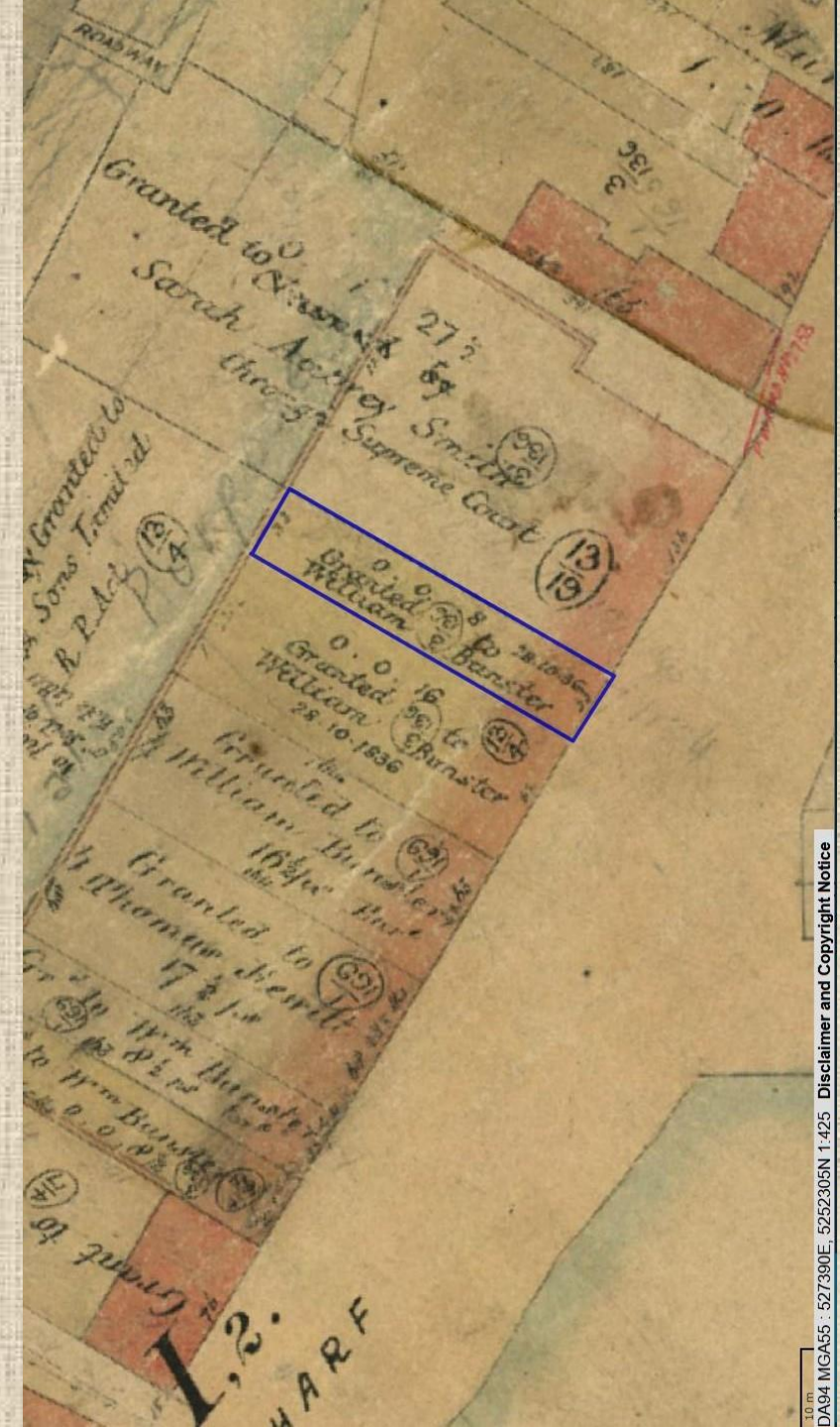


- We go to China with George Parkyns and *Merope* smuggling opium for opportunistic merchants, such as Jardine and Matheson





- We also look at some of the merchants on Old Wharf who had such a large involvement on the formation of the colony.





- There's a **SCANDAL** in the upper class

**Caution.**

MY WIFE, SARAH ANN HEWITT,  
having abandoned her home at the  
instigation of an execrable villain, I will  
not be answerable for any debts she may  
contract.

THOMAS HEWITT.

Avoca, Oct 5, 1850





- **Mrs Bell's** deadly fish dinner





## Captain John George Briggs' ships

**Admiral Cockburn** - rescued Augustus Earle from Tristan da Cunha

**Cyprus** - Stolen by Pirates,

**Dragon** - crew eaten by New Zealanders  
and **Merope** - served for years in Australian waters after retiring from drug smuggling.



- We meet the **Harbour Master** of Launceston who holds a well-guarded secret about **Matthew Flinders'** disaster in the Coral Sea.



All the leading characters take us  
to the Old Wharf and directly to  
Elizabeth's Journal.

*My favourite ship*

*– the Marvellous Merope*

*and*

*A man called “My Dear Henry”*

And we discover the other  
stalwarts of our story.



