

Doctor Watson's Agony Column



Dr Watson,

I am worried about my father who has been acting strangely ever since I brought a friend down for the holidays. I met this chap at college when my dog bit him and we have been good friends ever since. As he's a bit of a loner I invited him home for the long vacation. He's a rather odd fellow and likes to amuse himself by pretending to deduce outrageous "secrets" about people and their past. When we challenged him about this, he made some surprisingly accurate guesses about my father. Unfortunately in the middle of this game, my father had a fit and fainted into a bowl of nuts.

He again became agitated several days later when we had another visitor, an old sailor who knew my father in his youth. My father was uncommonly curt with the man and retreated into the house where we found him later drunk and unconscious on the ottoman.

These attacks seem to be brought on by the presence of strangers and I am concerned that my father may have developed some strange phobia. His behaviour worsened after his fainting fit so I'm wondering whether he may have some unusual allergy to nuts. I believe my friend thinks this too because he left us at the end of the first week and his parting words to me were, "you need to keep an eye on those nuts." I would very much appreciate your advice in this matter. - A loving son.

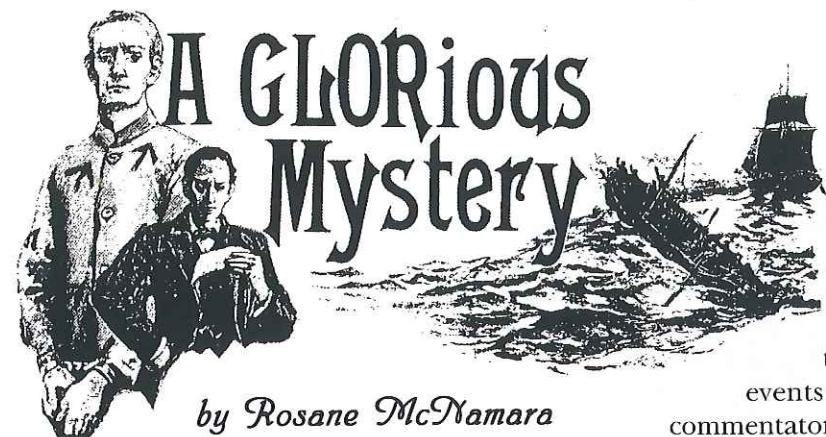
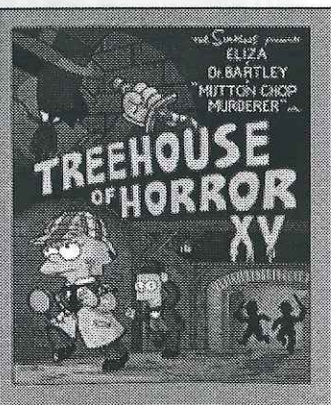
Dear Loving Son,

One matter in your story is of particular concern to my solicitor whom, as you know, only charges a fair sum for his advice - even when we are enjoying a pint at the Mozart and Liszt Public House. Did you get your friend to sign a waiver for the dog bite? This could become a problem for you later if your friend develops some peculiar habits, is attracted to a life of crime or starts indulging in drugs and then blames your dog. My solicitor, Mr McFarlane, suggests you contact him as a matter of urgency to discuss this.

As to your father, I'm sure he was just having a reaction to the nuts. It is of course unusual to faint into a bowl of nuts but that would make you thirsty, which explains his need to have a few drinks later. I would not be too concerned about him being unconscious on an ottoman, assuming they were both consenting (this clause was added my solicitor who keeps muttering something about turkish delights) but it may be useful to get a waiver from the ottoman as well. Maybe your father just needs a rest - a nice ocean voyage could do him wonders. This sailor chap might be able to make some interesting suggestions.

Finally I'd advise you to keep away from this "friend" of yours - he sounds like a real nutter.

Did you catch the Sherlockian episode of *The Simpsons* on 19th July? If not, I'm sure it won't be too difficult to find a Passenger with a copy.



by Rosane McNamara

The great irony of *The Adventure of the 'Gloria Scott'* (GLOR) is that, while it doesn't present Sherlock Holmes with a case to solve, it presents its readers with at least one major and several minor mysteries. So deep, in fact, is one of

these enigmas (the dating of events in GLOR) that Sherlockian commentator D. Martin Dakin declared it

"one of the thorniest problems in the Holmesian chronology"¹ while Leslie S. Klinger concluded, "the problem seems insuperable."² It is fitting therefore, in this 20th Anniversary year of *The Sydney Passengers*, that we turn our Australian magnifying glass on this, our own Canonical story, and seek some solutions to these mysteries.

The 'Gloria Scott' Mystery

The Adventure of the 'Gloria Scott' is not a case in the typical sense because, when its events unfolded, Sherlock Holmes was not yet the world's first consulting detective but a university student spending the long vacation at Donnithorpe, the Norfolk home of his college chum, Victor Trevor. Indeed, it is one of GLOR's claims to fame³ that this is the tale in which it was first suggested to Holmes, by his friend's father, that "all the detectives of fact and of fancy would be children in your hands. That's your line of life, sir."⁴

Trevor Snr's historic insight followed a series of deductions made by the youthful Holmes about Trevor's past which saw that gentleman "pitched forward, with his face among the nutshells...in a dead faint." An embarrassed Holmes, after terminating his vacation, was summoned back seven weeks later by his friend to discover that Trevor Snr had just died after receiving a cryptic note from his friend Beddoes which, when decoded by Holmes, read: "The game is up. Hudson has told all. Fly for your life".

Trevor Snr had also left behind a written confession, the details of which would trouble his son - and many a subsequent reader of the story:

In brief, Trevor confesses that his real name was James Armitage and that, at 23 years of age, having indulged in a spot of embezzlement, he discovered that "the laws were more harshly administered thirty years ago than now." Thus, on 8th Oct 1855, "when the Crimean War was at its height", he found himself "chained as a felon with thirty-seven other convicts in the 'tween-decks of the barque⁵ 'Gloria Scott' and bound for Australia

¹ Dakin, D. Martin, *A Sherlock Holmes Commentary*, David & Charles, Newton Abbot, 1972, p.106

² Klinger, Leslie S., "The Mystery of the 'Gloria Scott'", *Passengers' Log*, Vol.1, No. 1, Oct 1997, p.10

³ As well as being the only Canonical tale to mention Sydney, Australia.

⁴ This and all subsequent quotes from GLOR are from: Doyle, Sir Arthur Conan, *The Penguin Complete Sherlock Holmes*, Penguin Books Ltd., Harmondsworth, Middlesex, England, 1981, pp.373-385

⁵ A fully rigged ship with three or more masts all of which are square rigged except the mizzen (aft) mast. Also spelt "bark".



“for his country’s good”⁶. Having become embroiled in a shipboard mutiny but refusing to join his fellow convicts in slaughtering the guards, Armitage and a mate (Evans) found themselves put to sea in a small boat with six other conscientious objectors. From this vessel they watched the ‘Gloria Scott’ explode and sink then rescued the only survivor, a sailor named Hudson (see picture left). All nine were subsequently picked up by a passenger ship, the ‘Hotspur’, and conveyed to Sydney from where Armitage and Evans proceeded to “the diggings”, made their fortunes and returned to England as gentlemen with new names, “Trevor” and

“Beddoes”. All was well for “more than twenty years” until, during Sherlock Holmes’ vacation visit to Dornithorpe, Hudson returned and demanded a price for his silence.

Mystery No.1 - Dating the ‘Gloria Scott’ Events

Sherlockian commentators have been consistently frustrated by the dating of the voyage of the ‘Gloria Scott’ and justifiably so because 1855, the date Trevor states the ‘Gloria Scott’ sailed, plus “thirty years ago”, as stated by both Trevor and Hudson⁷, equals 1885 but Holmes’ Donnithorpe visit could not have been in 1885 because of one of the indisputable facts of the story, related by Holmes himself, that this event took place “during the two years I was at college”. These college years must have been in the mid to late 1870’s for the following reasons:

- Holmes was born around 1854⁸ so could not have commenced college before 1872.
- Holmes was already in practice in London when he met Watson in 1881 or 1882⁹.
- When Holmes retired in late 1903,¹⁰ he had been in active practice, according to Dr Watson, for 23 years.¹¹ If we deduct the 3 years of the Great Hiatus, Holmes must have commenced his practice in 1877 or 1878.

⁶ The “patriotic sacrifice” made by the 162,000 convicts transported to Australia between 1788 and 1868 was immortalised by transported pickpocket, George Barrington, who wrote a prologue to a play presented by convicts that opened the Playhouse in Sydney in 1796. The play was *The Revenge and the Hotel*, and the prologue’s most famous couplet was: “True patriot’s we, for be it understood, / We left our Country for our Country’s good”.

⁷ Hudson said it was “thirty year and more” since he had seen Trevor and Trevor referred to the laws being “more harshly administered thirty years ago than now.”

⁸ In 1914, in *His Last Bow*, Holmes is described as “a tall, gaunt man of sixty”.

⁹ The Battle of Maiwand, in which Watson was wounded, took place on 7th July 1880. In *A Study in Scarlet*, Holmes and Watson are ensconced in Baker Street by 4th March but Watson doesn’t mention the year. Allowing time for Watson’s hospitalisation and repatriation to England, the year of their meeting is most probably 1881 although 1882 is feasible. The major commentators are divided between 1881 and 1882 with the majority favouring 1881. (See Klinger, Leslie S., *The Sherlock Holmes Reference Library - A Study in Scarlet*, Gasogene Books, Indianapolis, 2001, p.141 for a summary of dates assigned by major commentators.)

¹⁰ Watson tells us that *The Creeping Man*, which commences on a “Sunday evening early in September of the year 1903” was “one of the very last cases handled by Holmes before his retirement from practice.”

¹¹ In *The Veiled Lodger*, Watson tells us that, Holmes “was in active practice for twenty-three years”.

Given therefore that Holmes’ college visit to Donnithorpe took place between 1872 and 1878, how do we reconcile this with 1855 being “thirty years ago”? H.W. Bell suggested that Trevor Snr fabricated the entire story to conceal a greater misdemeanour¹² but assuming that it was all made up is a theory of last resort. Similarly, it could be suggested that the time lapse was only 20 years and Dr Watson wrongly transcribed it as 30 years but this is also based on the desperate measure of continually blaming Watson for Canonical inconsistencies. Furthermore both Hudson and Trevor mention “30 years” and, while Hudson may have been unreliable, Trevor would have been quite clear about events he was relating in this important confession to his son.

1855 or 1845?

If we accept therefore that the 30 years must stand and we count backwards from the mid to late 1870s, then the ‘Gloria Scott’ would have sailed in the mid 1840s. This is the date argued by Dakin¹³ who suggests that Trevor wrote “1844” or “1845” but confused another “of the colonial wars in which our empire-building ancestors indulged” with the Crimean War because “he probably was not well up in foreign affairs” and that Dr Watson compounded the confusion by accepting that Trevor meant the Crimean War and therefore correcting “1845” to read “1855”. Neat eh? Well, expedient as this theory might be, it asks us to accept that both Watson and Trevor had sloppy writing habits. Its crucial flaw however is that there is no way Trevor, politically naïve or not, would have mistaken the Crimean War, one of the iconic events of the Victorian era, for some other colonial war. Besides, Trevor is totally correct about the types of vessels such as the ‘Gloria Scott’ being pressed into service as transports during the Crimean War.¹⁴

Dakin also argues that the ‘Gloria Scott’ sailed to Australia in 1844-5 because “a convict transport to Australia in 1855 is unlikely”¹⁵ but this was not the case. Armed, like many in 1972, with a sketchy knowledge of the subject, he concedes that “a few went to Western Australia until 1868” (actually it was 43 ships carrying approximately 9,720 convicts¹⁶) but concludes that “a voyage to Tasmania is a reasonable proposition” in 1844-5. Well, no more reasonable a proposition actually than a voyage to Western Australia in 1855. To clarify the situation, here is the full range of transportation dates to Australia:¹⁷

Primary Penal Settlements:

Sydney	1788-1849	496 ships
Van Dieman’s Land (Tasmania)	1803-1853	353 ships
Melbourne / Port Phillip	1803-1804; 1836-1849	15 ships
Western Australia	1850-1868	43 ships

¹² Bell, H.W., *Sherlock Holmes and Dr Watson: The Chronology of Their Adventures*, London, Constable & Co., 1932, p.8-11.

¹³ Ibid p.108.

¹⁴ “It was the year ’55, when the Crimean War was at its height, and the old convict ships had been largely used as transports in the Black Sea. The government was compelled, therefore, to use smaller and less suitable vessels for sending out their prisoners.”

¹⁵ Ibid p.108



¹⁶ The excellent *Convicts to Australia* website (<http://members.iinet.net.au/~perthdps/convicts/shipsWA.html>) lists ships bound for Western Australia, and all other states, based on the definitive book *The Convict Ships 1787-1868* by Charles Bateson. It also uses the artwork shown left as the pointers to it’s research page and search results.

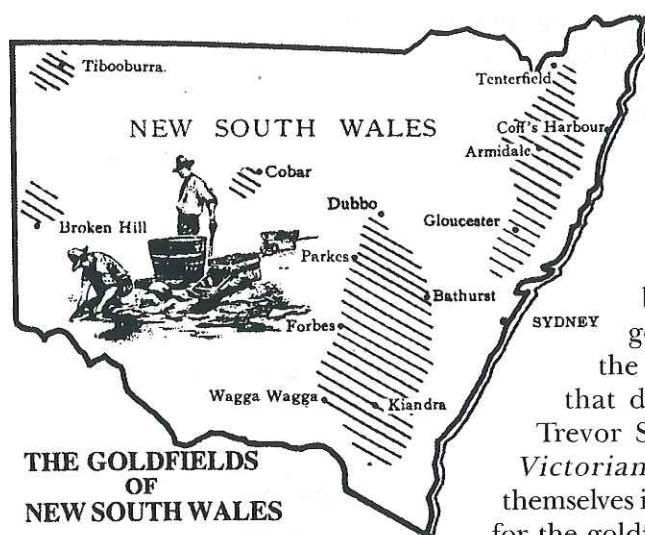
¹⁷ Ibid (These figures include a number of vessels carrying convicts from India; the NSW figures also include some vessels to Port Philip (Melbourne) and Moreton Bay (Brisbane) before Victoria became an independent state in 1851 and likewise Queensland in 1859.

*Secondary Penal Settlements:*¹⁸

Newcastle:	1804-1824 (No ships from outside Australia)
Port Macquarie:	1822-1834 (No ships from outside Australia)
Norfolk Island:	1788-1814; 1824-1852 18 ships
Moreton Bay (Brisbane):	1824-1839; 1849-1850 2 ships

As can be seen from these dates, the pattern of convict transportation sheds no light on the 1845 vs 1855 dispute. In 1845, the 'Gloria Scott' would have had a choice of several colonial destinations whereas, by 1855, almost all were closed to convict transports - except for the fledgling colony of Swan River in Fremantle, Western Australia, which was now accepting convict labour and would therefore have been the destination for the 'Gloria Scott'.

The really critical date for adjudicating the 1845/1855 matter is Trevor's statement that he "made all my money at the gold fields." This completely rules out 1845 because gold was not discovered in Australia until 1851 in which year it was discovered first at Bathurst in New South



Wales then at both Ballarat and Bendigo in Victoria.¹⁹ Leslie Klinger challenges Trevor's statement that he made his fortune on the gold diggings in the years after 1855 on the basis that "by 1854 the 'boom' was largely over"²⁰ but we need to look at this in more detail.

While it is true that by the mid 1850s the boom days were over in Victoria for alluvial gold (the sort you could find lying around on the ground or could pan out of streams) and that deep-shaft mining was now commencing, Trevor Snr does not say that he headed for the Victorian diggings. Since he and Evans found themselves in Sydney, it is far more likely that they headed for the goldfields of New South Wales. This would have made more sense because, although the NSW sites were

never as rich as those down south (government surveyors believe that gold worth over A\$500,000,000 is still underground in Victoria²¹), the easy pickings were drying up in Victoria by the mid 1850s, while new alluvial sites were discovered in the NSW districts of Sofala and Wattle Creek near Bathurst - in 1855!

¹⁸ Settlements to which convicts were sent if they committed further crimes in the colonies (although later on convicts were also transported directly to Brisbane and Norfolk Island). These were particularly harsh establishments in order to deter future offenders, despite the fact that many of the offences were of a minor nature.

¹⁹ There had actually been earlier discoveries in Bathurst and the Blue Mountains but these were "hushed up by the authorities for fear that all the convicts, soldiers and public servants would stop work to hunt for their fortune" [as it turned out this fear was correct], *Gold in Australia*, <http://www.ga.gov.au/education/minerals/goldaust.html>

²⁰ Klinger, Leslie S., *The Sherlock Holmes Reference Library, The Memoirs of Sherlock Holmes*, Gasogene Books, Indianapolis, 1999, p.108 (note 66)

²¹ *Gold Net Australia*: <http://www.gold-net.com.au/maps1.html>

*Return to Donnithorpe*

So, historically it is possible that Armitage and Evans came to Australia in 1855 and made their fortunes on the goldfields, whether or not by honest labour, but this still leaves us with the problem that 30 years on is 1885. It seems unsolvable but let us look again at the facts:

1. Holmes' visit to Donnithorpe was during his university vacation and therefore in the late 1870s
2. When old Trevor wrote his confession, he stated that the 'Gloria Scott' sailed 30 years ago in 1855
3. Sherlock Holmes left Donnithorpe at the end of (1) and returned after (2) - and this is the key to the mystery.

Holmes tells Watson that he returned to Donnithorpe seven weeks after his first visit in the late 1870s. I contend however that the tragic dénouement to Holmes' tale is not a decade old when he recounts it to Watson but quite recent; that, while Holmes' first visit to Donnithorpe *did* take place in the 1870's, his second visit was not seven weeks later but **SEVEN YEARS** later.

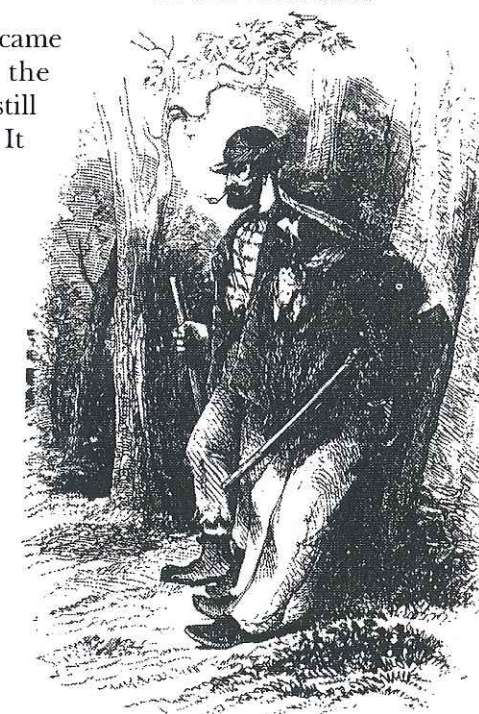
As evidence, it should be noted that Holmes tells Watson, "All this occurred during the first month of the long vacation. I went up to my London rooms, where I spent seven weeks working out a few experiments in organic chemistry. One day, however, when the autumn was far advanced and the vacation drawing to a close, I received a telegram from my friend imploring me to return to Donnithorpe". Now, the long vacation at English universities usually commences in July or occasionally early August so, if Holmes had gone down to Donnithorpe at the beginning of the vacation, his return seven weeks later would have been in the late summer or early autumn, not "when the autumn was far advanced". Watson tells us that it was a "winter's night" when Holmes recounted the 'Gloria Scott' events and I suggest this is consistent with Holmes' having only recently returned to Donnithorpe, during the late autumn of 1885, to witness the tragic conclusion to the Trevor family saga, seven years after his first visit, and then relating them to Watson a short time later in the winter of 1885.

The revised chronology of GLOR is therefore:

- 1855 The 'Gloria Scott' sails from Falmouth and suffers a mutiny.
- 1878 Holmes' first visit to Donnithorpe during his college days and the return of Hudson.
- 1885 Holmes' second visit to Donnithorpe following Trevor Snr's death and confession.

This timeframe also explains some of GLOR's minor mysteries such as why Holmes is still in possession of the coded note and Trevor Snr's confession. This makes more sense if the final events of GLOR have happened recently with Victor Trevor entrusting these documents to his friend prior to quitting England for the Terai Tea plantings in India. Perhaps Holmes even saw Trevor off that very morning and was feeling nostalgic for a friend who had said, "From you I shall have no secrets."

GOLD LEVIED WITHOUT LICENSE.



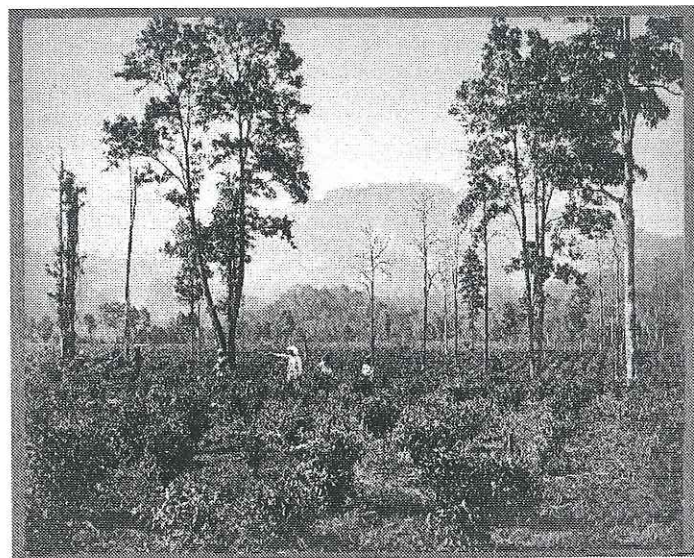
Engraving by S. T. Gill.
From John Sherer *The Gold Finder in Australia*, published in 1853.

An 1853 take on how to "make a pile"
on the Australian goldfields

But why would Holmes pretend to Watson that this is an old and cold story? Naturally, Holmes would have wanted to protect Victor Trevor for this was not a "case" but a personal matter in which Holmes' support had been sought by an old friend. This explains why Holmes did not invite Watson to Donnithorpe when recently summoned by Trevor Jnr. It's true that Holmes subsequently relates the events to Watson, knowing that the circumstances of his becoming a detective would be of particular interest to his "Boswell" and besides, there is no one to offend now – Victor Trevor is out of the country, his father, mother and sister are all dead and "Beddoes" has absconded. Still, the events are delicate enough that we might expect Holmes to be circumspect and, given the circumstances, it is highly likely that "Trevor" is not the real family name.

But what of the other "thirty year" reference, uttered by Hudson upon his arrival at Donnithorpe: "Why, it's thirty year and more since I saw you last." As it is impossible that "thirty year and more" had passed at the time of the Holmes' college visit, this statement must be incorrect and its explanation lies in Holmes' observation that Hudson "came slouching across the lawn"; in the maids' complaints about Hudson's drunken habits; and in Victor Trevor's observation that Hudson possessed "the thick voice of a half-drunken man." Hudson's intemperance, along with a regional dialect would have rendered the words "twenty" and "thirty" indistinguishable.

This timeframe means, however, that Hudson would have been blackmailing Trevor and Beddoes for seven years rather than seven weeks but seven years seems a far more likely timeframe if we consider the events related by Trevor Jnr: "My father made the fellow gardener ... and then, as that did not satisfy him, he was promoted to be butler. The house seemed to be at his mercy, and he wandered about and did what he chose in it. The maids complained of his drunken habits and his vile language ... I would have knocked him down twenty times over if he had been a man of my own age ... Well, matters went from bad to worse with us, and this animal Hudson became more and more intrusive".

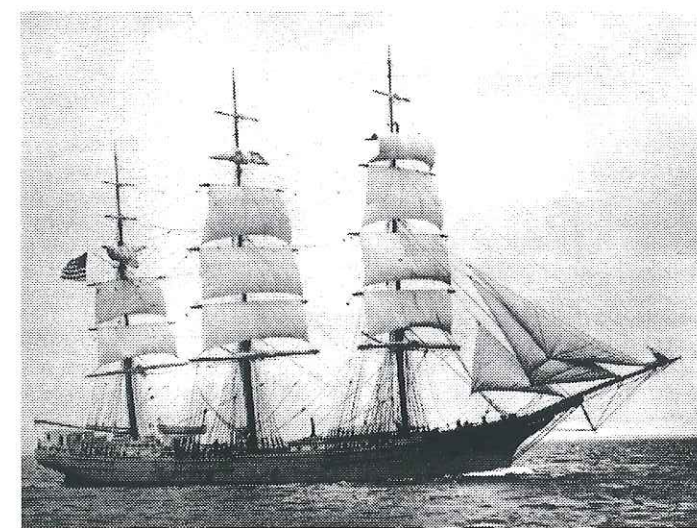


The Terai Tea Plantations, India

his ill fortune, obnoxious though Hudson was, rather than risk all by inciting him to go to the Police. While Trevor Snr obviously accustomed himself to this situation, his son (who only returned to Donnithorpe for holidays) found it intolerable and eventually snapped, resulting in Hudson's quitting Norfolk to pursue Beddoes. At this point, Trevor Snr "knew that danger from Hudson had become imminent" and he "shut himself up in the study all day, where I could see through the window that he was writing busily". What he was writing was his confession which, penned in 1885, correctly states that the 'Gloria Scott' sailed in 1855.

This intolerable situation is similar to *The Boscombe Valley Mystery* in which another gentlemen made his fortune dubiously in Australia only to be tracked back to England and blackmailed for a number of years before succumbing to the temptation to be rid of his oppressor. It's likely that Trevor Snr, like Jack Turner, would have tried to make the best of

Mystery No.2 - Finding the 'Hotspur'



Although Trevor Snr's date of 8th October 1885 for the sailing of the 'Gloria Scott' is historically viable, the official records are frustratingly silent about it for the 'Gloria Scott' does not appear on any of the lists of convict vessels sailing for Western Australia in 1855 or 1856.²²

With the 'Hotspur', however, we are on firmer ground (so to speak) and I am pleased to reveal that the 'Hotspur' was indeed a passenger ship and that it *did* convey emigrants to Australia in the 1850s and 1860s. Thanks to the superb *Picture Australia* website,²³ we even have a

photograph of the 'Hotspur' (above)²⁴ and, courtesy of the *Lloyd's Register of British and Foreign Shipping* website, we have a description of her:²⁵

HOTSPUR - 1856-1857

Master: Captain R. Scott; Owner: J. Wilson²⁶

Rigging: Ship; sheathed in yellow metal in 1855; partly fastened with iron bolts

Tonnage: 1,508 tons old measurements and 1,670 tons new measurements

Construction: 1853 in New Brunswick, using Spruce, Birch, Pine & Oak

Port of registry: Liverpool; Port of survey: Liverpool

Voyage: sailed for Australia.

The 'Hotspur' made at least five voyages to Australia bringing free immigrants to these shores. The "Ships List" website lists the following voyage:²⁷

Vessel	Departure	Arrival	Arrival Port	No. Days	No. Emigrants
Hotspur	9 Mar 1854	25 June 1854	Port Phillip	108	426

²² In these 2 years, there were 4 ships conveying convicts to Western Australia: the 'Stag' (sailed 5 Feb 1855 from London), the 'Adelaide' (sailed 19 April 1855 from Portland), the 'William Hammond' (sailed 5 Jan 1856 from Plymouth), and the 'Runnymede' (sailed 15 June 1856 from Plymouth) - See *Convicts to Australia*: <http://members.iinet.net.au/~perthdps/convicts/shipsWA.html>.

²³ <http://www.pictureaustralia.org/index.html>

²⁴ <http://enc.slq.qld.gov.au/slq/neg/research/063000/63060r.jpg>



²⁵ <http://www.reach.net/~sc001198/Lloyds.htm>; transcribed from the *Lloyd's Register of British and Foreign Shipping* from 1764 up to 2003, by Gilbert Provost with assistance from Pauline Joicey.

²⁶ It's interesting to note that the owner of the 'Hotspur' was Wilson, the same name as Jack Prendergast's partner. And, oddly, the vessel's Master was a Captain Scott! The waters are deep indeed!

²⁷ <http://www.theshipslist.com>: 'Emigrant Ships To Australia and New Zealand in The 1850s' listing ships and emigrants dispatched by public funds to Victoria, in 1854, 1855, and 1856.

A further three voyages are listed on the "Passenger Ships Arriving in Australian Ports" page of the "Perth Dead Person's Society" website:²⁸

Vessel	Departure Port	Date of Arrival	Port of Arrival
Hotspur		24 Feb 1861	Botany Bay
Hotspur	Plymouth	18 July 1862	Sydney
Hotspur	Plymouth	5 Dec 1863	Sydney

This website makes the point that, "In no way, however, does it represent all of the ships which arrived in New South Wales between 1837 and 1899" and recently I discovered yet another voyage with a picture of the Hotspur the caption to which reads, "Alexander Hodgson and Asenath Edwards both came on this ship, with their respective parents, to Sandridge, Melbourne on the 12th October, 1857." The available records are far from comprehensive and I am hopeful that it won't be long before we discover other voyages of the 'Hotspur' including, of course, the famous voyage to Sydney in late 1885.

Mystery No.3 - Blackmail

Sherlockian commentators have generally assumed that the hold Hudson had over Trevor and Beddoes was their involvement in the 'Gloria Scott' mutiny. Leslie Klinger recently pondered, "Why would Hudson threaten exposure when he was plainly equally guilty?"²⁹ but the answer to this question does not lie in the mutiny - even if Hudson wasn't himself involved, what possible case could a dissolute old salt bring to bear against a respected Justice of the Peace so many years after the event with all the evidence buried somewhere off the African coast? It was certainly not *this* "threat" that led Trevor Snr to write of the blow "which is forever hanging over me" and the "approaching disgrace" that is threatening to "darken the closing years of my life." The real cause of Trevor's fear is contained in the rather casual statement in his confession that "we came back." This was the hold Hudson had for he knew that Trevor and Beddoes were absconded, unpardoned convicts and that it was a serious crime for them to return to Britain.³⁰

The only way back to England for a convict was to either serve his or her full sentence or, if the sentence was "Life", to obtain an Absolute Pardon - and both ways took considerable time. The typical progression to freedom was for a convict to work either in government public works, if they had a skill, or as an indentured labourer to a free settler (unless they were a really hard case, in which instance they'd be sent to a chain gang such as the one building Sydney's Old Great North Road). After serving a proportion of their sentence³¹ with good behaviour, a convict could earn a Ticket of Leave, a form of probation that allowed him to buy some land and work for himself within a specified district. After several more years, a "Ticket of Leave Man" could earn a Conditional Pardon, the condition being that, while he now had the freedom of the colony, he couldn't leave Australia and certainly couldn't return to England or Ireland.

²⁸ <http://members.iinet.net.au/~perthdps/shipping/mig-wa.htm>: "Passenger Ships Arriving in Australian Ports" This listing was extracted by Margaret Bauer and Nancy Campbell from microfilms held at the LDS Family History Centre in Bundaberg, Queensland.

²⁹ Klinger, Leslie S., *The Sherlock Holmes Reference Library, The Memoirs of Sherlock Holmes*, Gasogene Books, Indianapolis, 1999, p.108 (note 68)

³⁰ During the days of transportation to the Americas, it was a capital offence but, during Australian transportation, it was punishable by re-trial and re-transportation for the entire length of the original sentence. By the 1870s of course transportation to Australia had ceased so the punishment would have been imprisonment in England.

³¹ Four years if their original sentence was seven years; six years if their sentence was 14 years; and eight years if their sentence was Transportation for Life. See the Society of Australian Genealogist's website: <http://www.sag.org.au/collections/tol.htm> for more details of Ticket of Leave procedures

Pictured right is a Conditional Pardon and at this point I should make my own confession: Passengers who knew me before I married will recall that my name was Dunn. Samuel Done, who was with this document so graciously pardoned in 1840, by the authority of George III, was my great-great-grandfather.

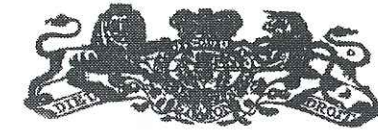
Armitage and Evans were tried for fraud and embezzlement and the typical sentences for such crimes were 7 to 14 years but fate released them from bondage before they even arrived in Australia. While no reasonable person would expect them not to take advantage of the situation, the fact remained that they were escaped convicts who never served their sentences and never earned the right to return to England.

Thus, from the moment he set foot on English soil until the fateful day that Hudson returned, James Armitage alias Justice of the Peace

Trevor would have been living under a sentence as oppressive as any he could have served in Australia - the fear that one day someone would point the finger and he would be exposed. Even more than the legal repercussions, he would have feared the social consequences of exposure - the scandal, humiliation, disgrace, social and possibly financial ruin but most of all he feared

CONDITIONAL PARDON.

No.



41/195

WHEREAS His late Most Excellent Majesty KING GEORGE THE THIRD, by a Commission under the Great Seal of Great Britain bearing Date the Eighth Day of November, in the Thirty-first Year of His Majesty's Reign, was graciously pleased to Give and Grant full Power and Authority to the GOVERNOR (or, in case of his death or absence, the LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR) for the time being of His Majesty's Territory of the Eastern Coast of New South Wales and the Islands thereunto adjacent, by an Instrument or Instruments in Writing under the Seal of the Government of the said Territory, or as He or They respectively should think fit and convenient for His Majesty's Service, to Remit either Absolutely or Conditionally the Whole or any Part of the Term or Time for which Persons convicted of Felony, Misdemeanor, or other Offences, amenable to the Laws of Great Britain, should have been, or should thereafter be respectively conveyed or Transported to New South Wales, or the Islands thereunto adjacent.

By Virtue of such Power and Authority so vested as aforesaid, I Sir George Gipps, Knight, Captain-General and Governor-in-Chief of Her Majesty's said Territory of New South Wales and its Dependencies, and Vice-Admiral of the same, taking into consideration the good conduct of Samuel Done, who arrived in this Colony in the ship *Royal Charlotte* *Captain* Master, in the Year One thousand eight hundred and *Twenty Five* under sentence of Transportation for *Life* and whose Description is on the back hereof Do hereby Conditionally Remit the remainder of the Term or Time which is yet to come and unexpired of the Original Sentence or Order of Transportation passed on the aforesaid Samuel Done, at *Salop Affizes* on the *Eleventh* Day of *August* One thousand eight hundred and *twenty four* Prohibited Always, and on Condition, that the said Samuel Done continue to reside within the limits of this Government for and during the space of *his* original Sentence or Order of Transportation:—Otherwise, the said Samuel Done shall be subject to all the Pains and Penalties of Re-appearing in Great Britain and Ireland, for and during the Term of *his* original Sentence or Order of Transportation; or, as if this Remission had never been granted.

GIVEN under my Hand and the Seal of the Territory, at Government House, Sydney, in New South Wales, this *First* Day of *October* in the Year of Our Lord One thousand eight hundred and *forty*

(L. S.)

(SIGNED)

By His Excellency's Command.

*(Signed) E. Deas Thomson**Geo. Gipps*

the loss of his son's respect. Although he could no longer be re-transported to Australia (even Swan River was now closed) and may well have been treated leniently in view of his reformed ways and current social position, the shame and stigma of being an ex-convict would have been intolerable.³³ Small wonder then that the news that Hudson had "told all" alarmed Trevor Snr to such an extent that he succumbed to a fatal stroke. Small wonder also that Trevor Jnr chose to relocate to an outpost of the British Empire, a safe distance from any social fallout, where he could make new opportunities for himself - unlike his poor father who had declined to make a new life in the "freer, less conventional atmosphere" of Australia.³⁴ And small wonder that Sherlock Holmes took such great care to protect the identity of his friend "Trevor Jnr".

Why then did Trevor Snr, after returning to England, tempt fate even further by accepting the high profile community position of Justice of the Peace? The answer lies perhaps in Holmes' report that Trevor "had a reputation for kindness and charity on the countryside, and was noted for the leniency of his sentences from the bench." It may just be that Trevor's own youthful indiscretion inclined him to use this position to dispense compassion and to save those who, like himself, had naïvely set their foot on the wrong path. This is a motive that Sherlock Holmes, himself an occasional dispenser of justice, would have understood and, who knows, perhaps it brought to one old lag³⁵ a measure of redemption.



³³ Even in the less socially pretentious environment of Australia, it was not until the end of the 20th century (basically after the 1988 Bicentenary) that it became acceptable, indeed a matter of national pride, to claim a convict ancestor. Within my own family, one of no particular social standing, the convict origins of my g-g-grandfather were dis-remembered by the end of the second generation.

³⁴ *The Adventure of the Abbey Grange*, p.638

³⁵ Australian slang for ex-prisoner.

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GOLD! website: <http://www.sbs.com.au/gold/>

Society Of Australian Genealogists website <http://www.sag.org.au/ozsources/convictship.htm>

Perth Dead Person's Society website: incorporating:

'Passenger Ships Arriving in Australasian Ports' at <http://members.iinet.net.au/~perthdps/shipping/mig-wa.htm> and

'Convicts to Australia' at <http://www.convictcentral.com/>

Convicts to Australia



In the next issue of *The Passengers' Log* we will examine some of the minor mysteries surrounding the 'Gloria Scott':

- Why the 'Gloria Scott' was carrying a mere 38 convicts.
- How the castaways could be picked up in the middle of the ocean without coming under suspicion or having to explain themselves upon arrival in Sydney.
- Where the 'Gloria Scott' actually sank.

Each June I Make a Promise Sober

By Ogden Nash

(with notes by Karen Murdock)

Ogden Nash (1902-1971), see right, was the most famous American humorous poet of his generation. Born in Rye, New York, on August 19, 1902, he worked in teaching, selling war bonds, and writing advertising copy before landing a job as an editor and publicist for Doubleday Page Publishers in 1925.

At Doubleday, Nash met Christopher Morley (1890-1957), twelve years Nash's senior and one of the most popular American writers of the 1920s. Morley, Nash and Cleon Throckmorton (1897-1965) collaborated on *Born in a Beer Garden, or She Troupes to Conquer*, which was published in 1930. That same year, Nash's first humorous poem, "Spring Comes to Murray Hill," appeared in *The New Yorker*.

By the mid-1930s, Nash had quit his job to devote himself fulltime to his verse. He published several dozen books of verse, children's stories and essays. His Broadway play, *One Touch of Venus* (1943), written with S. J. Perelman, was a smash hit. He died in Baltimore, where he had spent much of his life, on May 19, 1971.

Nash was a fan of Sherlock Holmes, as he confessed in his poem "Each June I Make a Promise Sober." This poem first appeared on the front page of "The New York Times Book Review" section on Sunday 7 June 1953, the "Vacation Reading Issue" of that magazine. It expresses only too well the melting away of lofty reading ambitions in the somnolence of summer, a pattern just as widespread today as it was fifty-two years ago.

"Each June I Make a Promise Sober" was reprinted in *The Baker Street Journal*, Volume 3, No. 4 (October 1953) and was then, apparently, lost to the sight of the Sherlockian community. Ronald DeWaal's massive 1994 bibliography *The Universal Sherlock Holmes* lists the poem (C13489) as having appeared in just two places—the original appearance in the *Times* in June 1953 and the reprinting in the *BSJ* in October of that year.

I have been unable to find "Each June I Make a Promise Sober" in any book of Nash poems. The poem is not posted anywhere on the Internet, although there are several online sites devoted to Nash poems. "Each June I Make a Promise Sober" has, apparently, never been published in Australia, nor anywhere else in the Southern Hemisphere. I thought that Aussie Holmesians would enjoy reading it. Even if June represents the depths of winter Down Under, the sentiments Nash captures are universal.

I have added some footnotes in case you, like Ogden Nash then and like me now, have not yet gotten around to reading the originals of all the "masterpieces major" we once hoped to read. I am grateful to Isabel Eberstadt for her kind permission to reprint this poem by her father, Ogden Nash.

