

Succeeding in the regular economy: marriage as an arbiter of success

Sarah Guest (my great-great-great-grandmother)
was born on Norfolk Island, in 1792.
Her parents, George Guest (1st Fleet convict) and Mary
Bateman (2nd Fleet convict) married on N.I. in 1790.

By 1806, the Guests had settled in Hobart Town,
where Sarah marries
Thomas William Birch in 1808.

Sarah remains in Hobart for her adult life, marrying
Edmund Hodgson, in 1823.





When 20-month-old Mary Guest dies in 1804, Sarah Guest was 12 and her brother, George was 10. William was born in 1804 and John in 1805.

Commandant Phillip Gidley King, on his return to Norfolk Island from England in November 1791, established a school. From King's second journal he writes:

“Soon after I returned to this Island, a School House was built, and a Careful Woman was appointed to take charge of, and instruct the Children; among whom are several who have been deserted by their parents, and left a Burthen to the Island.”

It would be interesting to know who the careful woman was but, unfortunately, there is no record of her name.

KAVHA Research and Information Centre
Norfolk Island 2899

In May, 1808

A whaler, named DU BUC,

Sails into Hobart Town.

Thomas Birch, Ship's Surgeon,

Steps ashore to settle as

A merchant and shipowner.

September 1808: the marriage between Thomas William Birch and Sarah Guest takes place. Sarah is 16-years-old and her husband is 34 years.

Samuel Birch is born in 1809 but this first son, later in life, is described as having a weak intellect and “of imbecile mind”.

Ann Riley Birch is born in 1811 and dies the same year.

However, the family increases and thrives:

1812 William, 1814 Sarah, 1816 Eliza, 1818 Henry and 1820 George.

This information is from the [Australian Dictionary of Biography](#),
Volume 1, (MelbUniPress), 1966

Thomas William Birch was one of three surgeons in Hobart Town, but he did not practise to any extent in the colony.

Not long after his arrival in 1808, he had the schooner *Henrietta Packet*, 60 tons., built. He purchased the brig *Sophia*, 120 tons, and James Kelly was its captain for six years. The brig was employed in whaling and sealing and as the only local vessel available, was often chartered by the government... Birch employed twenty-six men in the whale fishery, and was the first Tasmanian to enter this field.

As a merchant Birch brought out many cargoes of goods at considerable profit and exported whale oil and sealskins. He and other merchants complained... about the heavy duties charged on imported spirits and the charge of £2 a ton on whale oil cleared through Hobart.

In 1820, Birch told the Commissioner, John Bigge, who was enquiring into colonial activities, that in 1815 he discovered Port Davey, and that Kelly in a whale-boat, discovered Macquarie Harbour, where he named Sarah Island in honour of Mrs Birch; ... Birch was given the sole right for a year to cut Huon pine there, the first to exploit this trade.

Birch's Inlet at Macquarie Harbour and Birch's Bay, near Woodbridge, were named after him.



Birch built for himself the colony's finest brick house, which was leased on occasion to both Lieutenant-Governor William Sorell and Governor Lachlan Macquarie. This house was built by 1816 and boasted a flat roof with battlements, where two cannon kept watch over the Derwent, for Birch declared that, if the French should appear, he would give a good account of himself, even if the government did not.

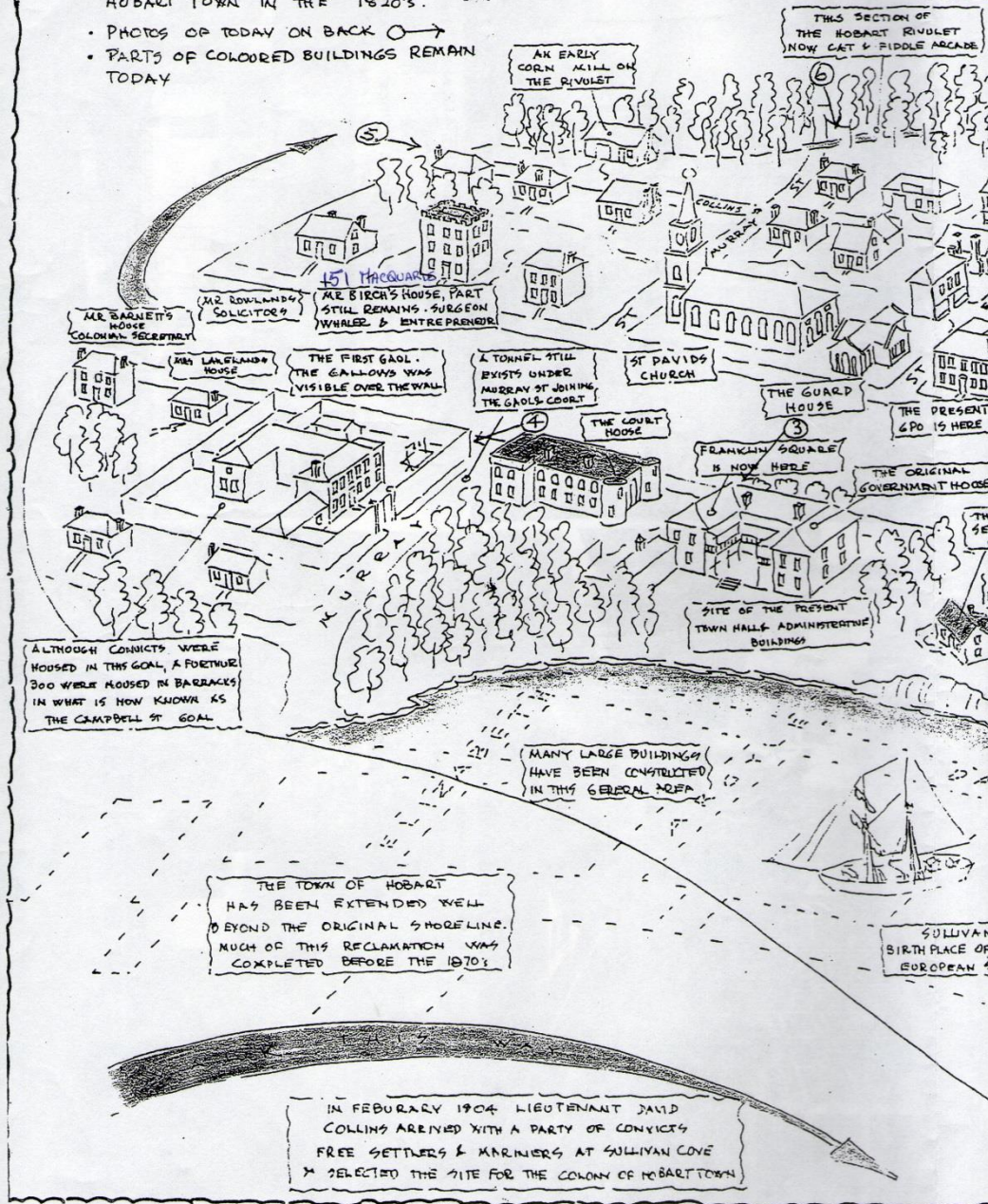
Birch had a grant of land at Richmond and acquired many more acres at Hollow Tree, Jericho, Cambridge and Lovely Banks. He was a regular contractor for meat to the commissariat.

In public life, Birch served in 1818 as a member of the Lt-Governor's Court, and was commended for his promptness in provisioning his ship to send it in pursuit of bushrangers (who had seized the “Young Lachlan” from Hobart).

He died suddenly on 1 December 1821 at the age of 47, leaving an estate (worth about 40,000 pds) the subject of dispute until 1854.

OLD HOBART TOWN

- A MODEL OF THE MAIN PART OF HOBART TOWN IN THE 1820's.
- PHOTOS OF TODAY ON BACK →
- PARTS OF COLOURED BUILDINGS REMAIN TODAY



Part of a diagram from Old Hobart Town Model Village, Bridge Street, Richmond.

MACQUARIE HOUSE, 141 Macquarie St, Hobart CONSERVATION MANAGEMENT PLAN

Draft: 23 June 2008

Prepared by

graeme corney architect & heritage consultant
3/78a Esplanade, Rose Bay 7015 tel (03) 6243 1994 or 0448 014 005

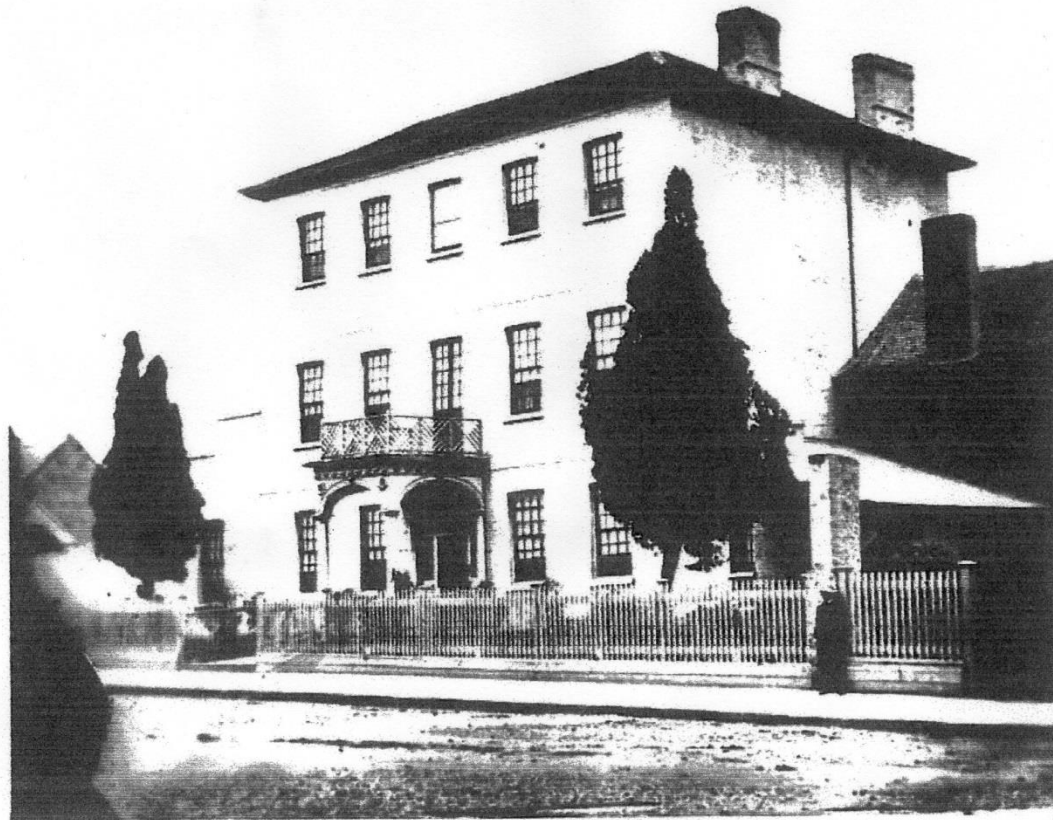


Figure 1 Macquarie House c.1885 courtesy Archives Office of Tasmania NS1013/1/367

Hobart Town Gazette and Van Diemen's Land Advertiser (Tas. : 1821)

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NOTICE is hereby given, that Mrs. **SARAH BIRCH**,
Widow of the late Mr. THOMAS WILLIAM
BIRCH, Merchant, of Macquarie-street, Hobart Town,
does intend to apply to the Honorable the Supreme
Court of Civil Judicature (through the medium of
his Commissioner, THOMAS BELL, Esq. J. P. at this
Dependency), for Letters of Administration to be
granted to her of the Estate and Effect which were
belonging to her said Husband; of which all Persons
concerned are requested to take Notice accordingly.

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"Sarah Birch"

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Hobart Town Gazette and Van Diemen's Land Advertiser (Tas. : 1821 - 1825) [about](#)

◀ Saturday 20 April 1822 ▶

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3

-John Bisdee

4000

31-Mrs. **Birch**

6000

\V. A. Brodribb 4000

Wm. Rayner

6000

John Wade

3000

June.

R. Graves

1000

7-D.&D.Stanfield

H. E. Robinson, Secret

[View entire](#)

Commissariat Office, March 23d, 1822.

MEAT.—The following Quantities for the Quarter ending 24th June, will be received as under:—
HOBART TOWN.

	April.	lbs.		May.	lbs.
26—	E. Abbott, junr	6000	17—	Jos. Chipman	3000
	R. W. Fryett	5000		Philip Pitt	2500
	John Lucas	3000		R. Morgan, sen.	1500
	May.				
3—	John Bisdee	4000	24—	Thomas Wells	12000
	W. A. Brodribb	4000	31—	Mrs. Birch	6000
	John Wade	3000		Wm. Rayner	6000
	R. Graves	1000		June.	
10—	Alex. Laing	4000	7—	D.&D.Stanfield	12000
	Roger Gavin	4000	14—	G. & S. Gate-house	12000
	George Salter	4000	21—	Stynes & Troy	12000
17—	Edward Garth	5000			

PORT DALRYM

ZOOM [+](#) [-](#)

by, Wade

May 20 to 23-One Hundred Bushels each.

E. Lord

J. Riseley

T. A. Lascelles

G. W. Gunning I D« Lord

B. Reardon j G. Espie

A. Whitehead | [Sarah Birch](#)

PORT DALRYMPLE.

April 22 to 25-Fifty Bushels each.

C. Howard I J. Cummings, sen. I M. Munroe

T. Barclay J J. Cuaraung, jun, I W. Field

April 29 to May 2-Fifty Bushels each.

J. Cox I C. Hardwicke I R. Dry

T. Walker | T. Reibey J T. Archer

May 6 to 9-Fifty Bushels each.

W. Fenton I C. Reid I D. Macleod

J» Hortel J D. Rose j - Kirkmau

May 13 to 16-Fifty Bushels each.

T. Daley I T. Massey | V. Macleod

J. Cox J YV» Field | - Kirkmau

May 20 to 23--On e Hundred Bushels each.

T. Archer | T. Barclay j T. C. Simpson

Q3T An additional List will be published Weekly.

Richard Dry 7000 I T. Massey 200
 A. MOONIE, A. C. C.

Commissariat Office, March 23d, 1822.
WHEAT.—The following Quantities will be received on the Dates specified :—
HOBART TOWN.

April 22 to 25—FIFTY Bushels each.
 F. Barnes | G. Porter | G. M'Guire
 T. G. Gregson | Z. Chaffey | J. Lucas
 J. Bradshaw | G. Kearley | H. Rice
 J. Haines | Eliz. Cullen | W. Hambly

April 29 to May 2—FIFTY Bushels each.
 J. Neill | T. Presnell | E. Franks
 W. Roadknight | R. Larsom | C. Franks
 D. Jamieson | J. & H. Berisford | T. Poole
 D. Reynolds | W. Williams | M. Lawler







May 6 to 9—FIFTY Bushels each.
 F. & J. Chipman | G. W. Evans | J. Burns
 P. Gough | W. Whitechurch | J. Tamplin
 T. F. Gorringe | W. Nichols, jun. | J. Waterson, sen.
 T. Chaffey | J. Smith | J. Waterson, jun.

May 13 to 16—ONE HUNDRED Bushels each.
 J. Gordon | N. Elliott | G. Gatehouse
 M. Lackey | W. Kimberley | W. A. Brodribb
 Stynes & Troy | D. Stanfield, sen. | J. Wade

May 20 to 23—ONE HUNDRED Bushels each.
 E. Lord | G. W. Gunning | D. Lord
 J. Riseley | B. Reardon | G. Espie
 T. A. Lascelles | A. Whitehead | Sarah Birch

PORT DALRYM

ZOOM

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Auctioneer, Bathurst-street.

A LL Persons who are indebted to the Estate of Thomas William **Birch**, Esq. deceased, either by Notes of Hand, or otherwise how ever, are hereby required to pay their several debts before the next Sitzings of the Lieutenant Governor's Court, to Mr. Evan Henry Thomas, who has my authority to receive the fame, and whom I hereby appoint Agent to the said Estate. **Sarah Birch**.

N. B.-All Defaulters will be sued by Mr. Thomas without any further notice.

pOSTOFFICE-The MAIL BAG for ENGLAND


*. per the ship Emerald, which will sail on Wednesday next, will be positively closed on Tuesday

Auctioneer, Bathurst-street.

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N. B.—All Defaulters will be sued by Mr. Thomas without any further notice.

[View entire page](#)



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J. Ogilvie's.

MR. **HODGSON** begs to return his thanks for the liberal encouragement he has met with from his Friends since his establishment in this Colony, and hopes to merit a continuance of it in his new Store^removed to Mr. GEORGE GUEST, Jun. adjoining the City of London Arms, in Bridge-street.

MR. **HODGSON** begs to return his thanks for the liberal encouragement he has met with from his Friends since his establishment in this Colony, and hopes to merit a continuance of it in his new Store, removed to Mr. GEORGE GUEST, Jun. adjoining the City of London Arms, in Bridge-street.

TO be LET, a very capital FARM containing 250 acres

ZOOM

MARRIED—This morning, at St. David's Church, by special license, by the Rev. Mr. Redford, Edmund Hodgson, Esq. to Mrs. **Sarah Birch**, widow of the late T. W. **Birch**, Esq. of Macquarie-street. Also, on Monday, last, by special licence, Mr. Michael Dowson, to Miss Susan Fisher eldest daughter of Mr. Fisher,

MARRIED—This morning, at St. David's Church, by special license, by the Rev. Mr. Bedford, Edmund Hodgson, Esq. to Mrs. **Sarah Birch**, widow of the late T. W. **Birch**, Esq. of Macquarie-street.—Also, on Monday last, by special licence, Mr. Michael Dowson, to Miss Susan Fisher, eldest daughter of Mr. Fisher, settler at Sandy Bay.

March 19, 1824._

TO be SOLD, that truly valuable

Allotment of Land, situate in Macquarie-street, Hobart Town, bounded by **Mrs. Hodgson**'s new house on the one side, and by Mr. Household's premises on the other side. A clear title can be given to the above, it being a Norfolk Island claim.-Application to be made to Messrs. Cartwright and Ross, Solicitors.

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TO be SOLD, HOUSE situate in Goulburn-st

ZOOM

Navigation controls for zooming in and out.

1825: Sarah's father, George Guest, opens the Seven Stars Inn, located in Campbell Street, Hobart Town.

Sarah starts another family in Hobart:

1825 Charles Alfred,

1826 Fanny,

1828 Ann Jane,

1830 Edmund Irton,

1831 Frederick Rampley,

1834 Walter

1829: Sarah's mother, Mary Guest, passes away; she had been an inmate of the New South Wales' asylum in Liverpool.

ST. GEORGE'S DAY.

A PUBLIC DINNER will take place at the **MACQUARIE HOTEL**, Macquarie-street, on the 23d Instant, for the purpose of celebrating the Birth Day of our Beloved SOVEREIGN.

Dinner at 5 o'clock precisely.

*** Tickets 30s. each, (not transferable), to be had at the Bar of the **Macquarie Hotel**, and of the Stewards.

PRESIDENT.

WILLIAM GELLIBRAND, Esq.

VICE PRESIDENT.

A. F. KEMP, Esq.

STEWARDS.

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GEO. MEREDITH, Esq.

JOHN BELL, Esq.

DAVID LORD, Esq.

W. A. BETHUNE, Esq.

EDWARD LORD, Esq.

T. G. GREGSON, Esq.

JOHN BRIGGS, Esq.

J. C. UNDERWOOD, Esq.

SWAN'S

ZOOM

LORD v. **BIRCH**.

Before a Special Jury.

Mr Simeon Lord, of St. Paul's Plains, brought this action to try the validity of the will of the late Mr. **Thomas** William **Birch**. The evidence was of a very conflicting character, some of the witnesses deposing that Mr. **Birch** was not of sound mind when he made his will. Mr. Lord had married one of Mr. **Birch**'s daughters. The property is said to be worth upwards of £40,000. After a very long trial the jury returned a verdict for the plaintiff, so the property will be divided among the children. Had the verdict gone for the defendant, the whole property would have been locked up, as it is said that the heir-at-law is of imbecile mind, and a ward of the Court.

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POLLARD v. DUDFIELD.
This action was brought for five years wages, at £100 per annum, Pollard having for that period been in the employ of Mr. Dudfield. An attempt was made to establish Mr. Pollard as merely an invalid, whom Dudfield had taken into his house from motives of charity. It was, however, clearly shown that when Dudfield was a javelin man at Launceston, Mr. Pollard had acted most kindly towards him and materially assisted him. It appeared that he had been of great service in his transactions at

Birch's estate included a 100-acre farm, at South Hobart, which John Foley (Folley), who arrived from Norfolk Island in 1808, had sold to T.W. Birch in 1811. The Chief Justice finally gave an order for sale in March, 1840; the farm was subdivided into 74 lots. Sarah purchases six of the lots, forming an L-shaped block of over four acres at the corner of Anglesea and Davey Streets and extending to Darcy Street. This is where Sarah, by 1847, builds a mansion as a rental property at Holbrook Place (now Davey Street).



Islington Hotel , 321-323 Davey Street.

Rent proportioned to Times.

GLEN HOUSE, that commodious family mansion possessing all the advantages of country and conveniences of town, at the top of Macquarie-street, consisting of eleven rooms, besides kitchen and scullery, wash-house, dairy, pantry, coach-house, and three-stall stable, and two rooms for men, with cow-house, pig-gery, fowl-house, and every convenience. The dining and drawing-room are spacious and airy. A lease of the above, with a few acres of land, will be granted to a good tenant, at the low rent of £80 per annum. Possession may be had immediately.

N.B.-For further particulars inquire of the proprietor, on the premises. 241

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Lutts' Estate.

A Further **DIVIDEND** of 6d in the pound will be payable to the creditors of the above estate on Monday next at the counting-house of the

ZOOM

LOCAL NEWS .

HODGSON V. HODGSON.—The decision in this Equity case was given by the Judges of the Supreme Court on Monday last. These are the facts of what has been long considered a never-ending matter (from August, 1845).

Mrs. Birch, on the death of her husband, received by a decree of the Supreme Court upwards of £9,000, as a third of her late husband's personal estate.

On marrying Mr. Hodgson she executed an assignment giving over this property to pay her husband's (Hodgson) debts... She afterwards appeared in Court to sanction the paying over of two sums amounting to about £6,000 to Mr. Hodgson's creditors.

The present bill was filed by her nearest friend (George Birch, her son) on her behalf against her husband and the creditors. Their Honors decided, that the assignment deed, in consequence of undue influence, coercion and misrepresentation in its execution, should be cancelled, as well as the two settlement deeds, and that Mrs. Hodgson should receive the residue of the money in Court, about £3,000, to her sole use, the creditors not to refund what they had received, but Counsel to be heard on the subject as to who should pay costs.

03 July, 1849: Edmund Hodgson departs for California
on the ship, William Melville.

The screenshot shows a web browser window displaying the Trove website. The address bar shows the URL <http://trove.nla.gov.au>. The page title is "The Courier (Hobart, Tas. : 1840 - 1859) (about)". The date is "Saturday 28 July 1849". The page content is a newspaper clipping from "The Courier" dated Saturday 28 July 1849. The clipping is an auction notice for "Glen House" in Hobart Town, featuring household furniture, cows, and dairy utensils. The notice is attributed to MR. WORLEY and includes details about the auction date and terms.

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The Courier (Hobart, Tas. : 1840 - 1859) (about) Saturday 28 July 1849

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"Glen House," Hobart Town.

MR. WORLEY

WILL SELL BY PUBLIC AUCTION,

On WEDNESDAY next, the 1st of August, at half
past 11 o'clock punctually,

Upon the Premises (under a bill of sale),

HOUSEHOLD FURNITURE, cows, dairy
utensils, &c, &c.

Terms-Cash. 1570

tumblers, &c. &c. To be seen at the Mart.
Terms at sale. 1569

"Glen House," Hobart Town.

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On WEDNESDAY next, the 1st of August, at half-
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HOUSEHOLD FURNITURE, cows, dairy
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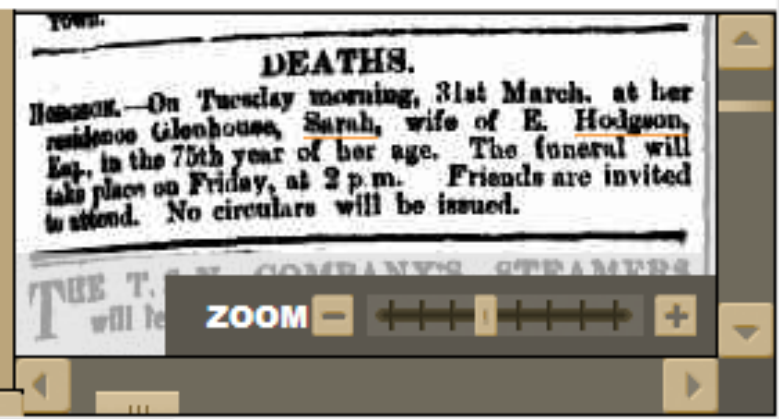
Terms- Cash. 1570

Horses, Vehicles, Merchandise, and
sundries

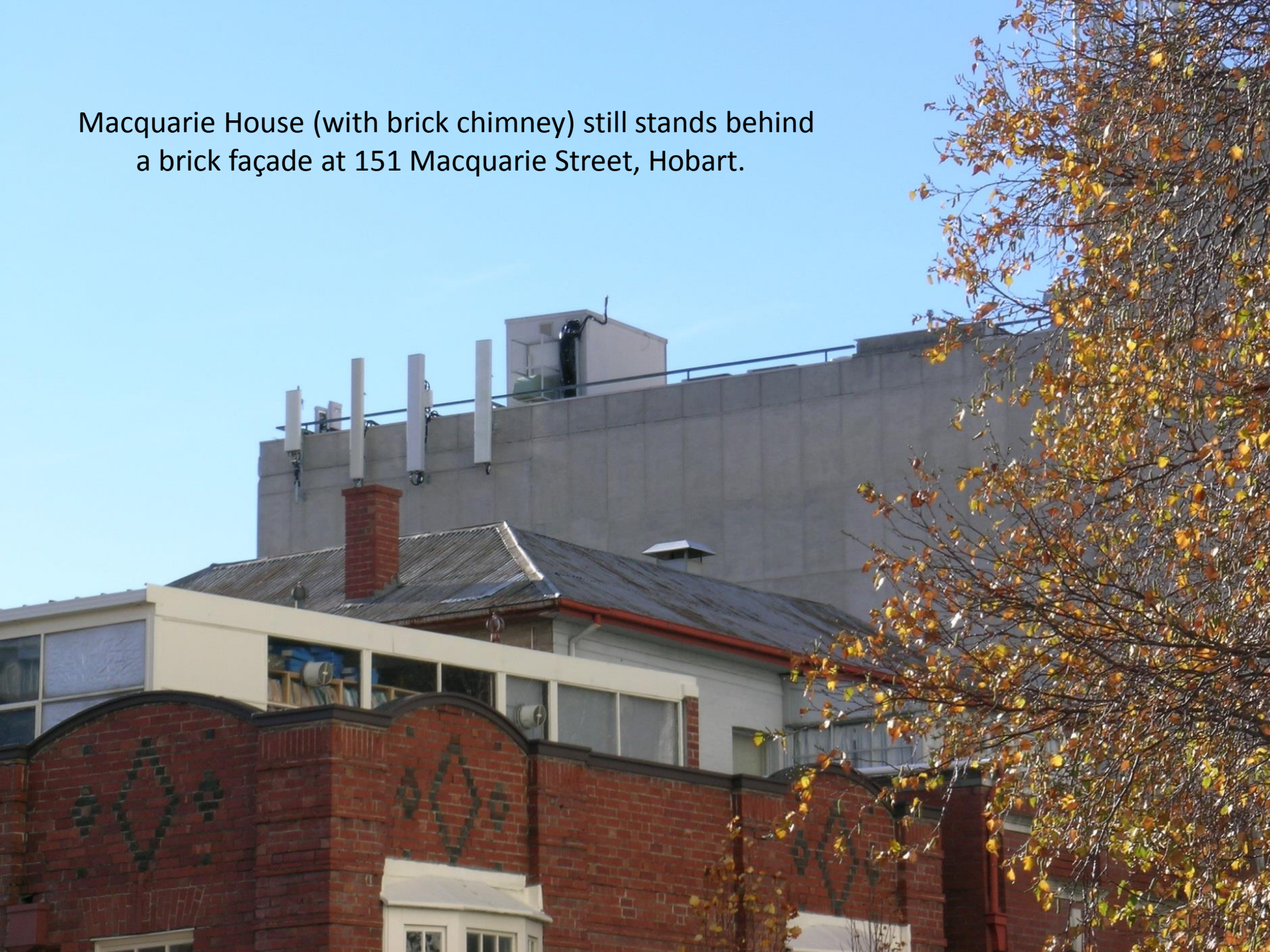
MD ZOOM

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HODGSON.—On Tuesday morning, 31st March, at her residence Glenhouse, **Sarah**, wife of E. **Hodgson**, Esq., in the 75th year of her age. The funeral will take place on Friday, at 2p.m. Friends are invited to attend. No circulars will be issued.



Macquarie House (with brick chimney) still stands behind a brick façade at 151 Macquarie Street, Hobart.



END OF
PRESENTATION