

# LOVELOCK NEWS

## The Lovelock Family Newsletter

#6 December 2007 

Editor: Yann Lovelock

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Christmas is near, so let me begin by wishing all of you, near relatives and distant, a happy Christmas and best wishes for the New Year.

2007 has been busy for all of us, those who contribute to the website and those who write for the newsletter. That will explain why this is the only one for 2007. It is not so big as usual but it's best to keep the continuity going.

Besides, the newsletter has justified its existence once again by putting us in touch with two key contacts. The first is Bill Lovelock, whose interesting memoir heads our sixth issue and challenges us to look more closely at the London members of our family. The most active of us come from its rural branches and have had little engagement with what has often seemed to me one of our greatest challenges.

Robert Sterry pointed out back in 2005 that the family goes back a long time in the capital. On 27 April 1553, Nicholas Lovelock married Parnell Seward at no less a church than St Margaret's, Westminster, the earliest instance of a Lovelock presence in 'London' that Robert recorded. How did they all get there and where were they from?

Bill's family photos and the memories he records give us a glimpse of one family aspiring to better things. Graham, with a good deal of

conjecture, has attempted to trace back what has now emerged as one of the major St Pancras branches a further two generations. What we learn from the process is that more is required of the genealogist than knowing how to access records of birth, marriage and death. A sense of geography and of social history is among them.

Ignorance of London geography was one of the lacks of which Neil Lovelock complained when he contacted Robin and myself. This exciting development took place off Rootsweb, again as a result of an article in our #2. In short, Neil is from Sydney and believes he is descended from Robin's errant Great Uncle Charles. He has amassed a good deal of information about his branch of the family as a whole which we hope to feature next year. As with the St Pancras branch, this will launch a new line and add a few key pieces to the jigsaw.

There has been a good deal of lively correspondence on Rootsweb and some very useful sleuthing. James too has been busy updating and reformatting the website, making it yet more accessible and easy to use as a research tool. We owe him a great deal for all his hard work and the stimulation his site gives even to those of us who are not genealogists. Though he must be bored with us saying it by now, thank you James, once again!



# A PUZZLE OF SORTS

Dear Cousins,

My name is Wilfred Michael Lovelock and I work at the US Embassy in Beijing, China. I am “American by Birth and *Southern by the Grace of God*”, having been born in Mobile, Alabama in 1950. My father, Wilfred Albert Maxwell Lovelock, born in Goodmayes, Ilford, Essex, was in the British Merchant Navy during WWII. His ship happened to make port in Mobile as the war was coming to a close. He also happened to meet my British-born mother, Doris Miller, who was working at the Waterman Steam Ship Company. No she wasn't “Rosie the Riveter”, but rather she worked in an office in the administration section. She worked as a draftsman, I believe. They hit it off pretty well and in a year or two they were married. Since both of my parents were British born, as an adult I decided to obtain a British passport, so now I have dual citizenship.

As a young man prior to WWII in the 1930's, my father worked on British passenger liners traversing the world's oceans. Looking after the needs of the well-to-do passengers on the ships, he learned a lot about fine food and beverage. These were highly sought after skills in the Deep South after the war and my father was able to secure good managerial jobs in the most refined hotels and resorts in the region.

Being a “Limey”, the good folks from the Deep South were fascinated with him and just couldn't get enough of his British accent. He was most popular at parties and social gatherings. For a time, he was at a complete loss to understand much of what was being said when he was with the natives, but soon his ear became attuned to the heavy southern drawls and he was able to follow right along with the conversations if not quite fully participate in them.

In the early 1950's, my father decided to move our family approximately 100 miles to the east to a place called Destin, Florida. He managed a hotel and restaurant on the beach called *The Spyglass Inn*. The restaurant and lounge soon became very popular with both the locals and travelers because of my father's expertise with fine food. At the time, Destin was known primarily as a small fishing village, but it had sugar-white sand and pristine clear blue water. My sister and I were very fortunate to grow up on the most beautiful beaches that Florida has to offer.



W.A.M. Lovelock. c.1942

There were only three or four hotels in the area then and the land did not have much value because you could not grow a crop on it! The beach was covered with open nests in the sand containing seabird eggs. Sea turtle hatchlings could often be found digging their way out of the white sand and scurrying towards the open Gulf of Mexico. It was a magical place. These days you have to have a lot of money to live on the beach at Destin. It's almost impossible to walk along it without stubbing your toe on a condominium! The sugar-white sand and beautiful crystal clear water of the Gulf of Mexico are still there and my friends tell me the fishing is as good as ever.

I never met my grandparents in Goodmayes and they had both died in the 1950's and 60's when I was still young. Our family line appears as the final one of the St Pancras fragments



on the family website. My great-great grandfather (b. 1823/4) was James Benjamin Lovelock, recorded in the 1861 census as a grocer's assistant living at 1 Lancaster Place. His second son was James, who married a Hampshire girl in 1877. My grandfather, Charles William Lovelock (1879-1958), was the first of their seven children. A sporty man all his life, he thought nothing of cycling fifty miles to play in a football match, although he confined himself to the local bowls team in later years. By the 1901 census he had followed his father into the Post Office, where he worked as a telegraphist. In 1912 he married and my father came along in 1917. The First World War was on then; originally Sapper 560467 with the London Regiment, he joined the 19th Battalion of the 2nd London Divisional Signals Company and rose to be a Sergeant. Judging by a later photo, he then transferred his skills to the railway and worked as a telegraphist there.

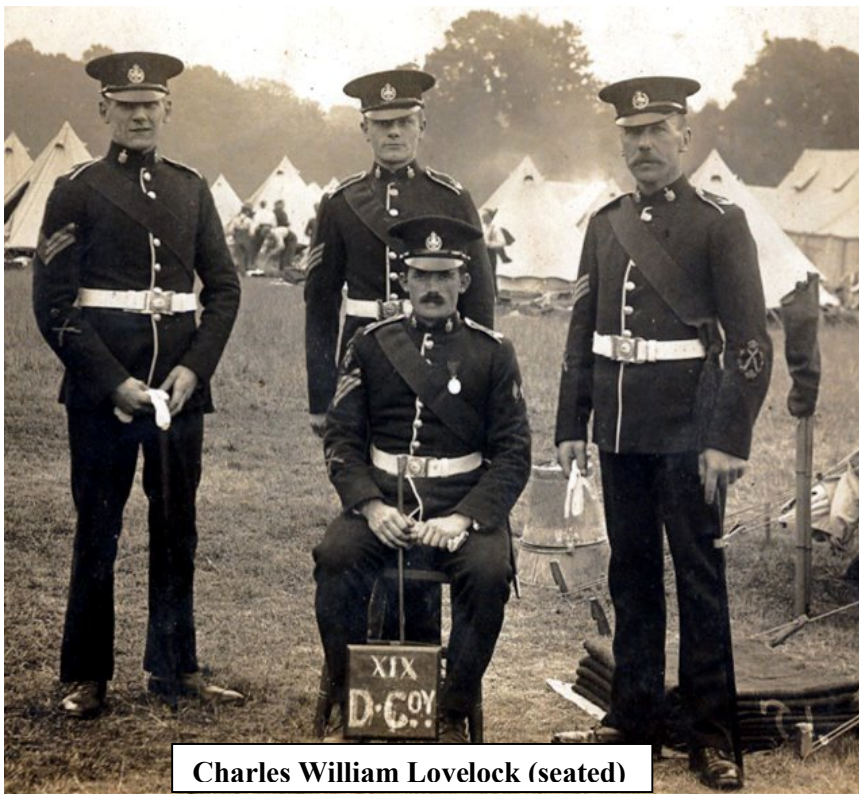
My father's sister came to the US to stay with us for a couple of months in the 1960's. Her name was Dorothy Harriet Lovelock and we called her Aunt Dolly. She married later in life so she never had children of her own. She spent her entire life in the house she and my father were both born in. Charles William Lovelock had built the house in 1912. It was located at 72 Airthrie Road and it was directly across the street from Valentine Park in Goodmayes.

As an adult, I managed to visit my Aunt a couple of times. In the early 1990's, I was working in Saudi Arabia and was sometimes able to have a stopover to visit with her in Goodmayes. By this time, both of my parents had been dead for some years and she was the last known family link I had in England. During one such visit, she pulled out some old family photo albums that she planned to give to me. We sat together for hours and, although she was getting along in years, I was amazed she could identify many of the people in the pictures. I wrote down all the information she could remember on pieces of masking tape and placed them next to each picture.

Since I was working overseas and had no place to keep them, I took the albums and left them with my oldest son who was living in the US State of Louisiana. Over the years I had forgotten all about them. In 2004, I was visiting with my son, when his wife pulled out the old photo albums. I recognized my own handwriting on the masking tape and then I vaguely remembered writing down the information years before when Aunt Dolly was still alive.

When I brought the albums back to Beijing with me two years ago, I removed each photo, scanned them and enhanced them using Adobe Photoshop Elements Software. Most were very small, perhaps 2X3 inches, and in very poor shape. They curled up and crumbled to bits after they had been scanned. Many of the photos were completely blackened with age, yet once enhanced with the computer software they came back to life or rather the people in them came back to life! I was fascinated by the process and the excellent results!

There are 218 photos in all and most of them are from the 19<sup>th</sup> century. I have posted them



Charles William Lovelock (seated)

on the internet at Kodak Gallery in three separate albums. There are several sets of wedding photos, one album of military photos (WWI and earlier), and photos of people just enjoying their daily lives. Some people are identified but most are not. It would certainly be great if we could identify some more!

In order to view the photos, I have to email you an "Invitation". If anyone would like to see the pictures, please email [blovelock@hotmail.com](mailto:blovelock@hotmail.com) and I will be very happy to send you an invitation. There is no cost to do this, but you do have to obtain a

log-on and password to view the pictures. My hope is that perhaps more people will view the old photos and perhaps be able to add additional information about places or even identify some individuals in the photos. Once you open the photo albums, it is best to view them as a "Slideshow". I would really appreciate any comments you may have about any of the photos and there is a place for your comments under each. *Thank you in advance for your help and assistance with this!*

With much help from Graham Lovelock over the past couple of years, we have managed to add a few more connections to our fragment. James Lovelock will be adding additional information about the St. Pancras Branch to the Lovelock Web Site in the coming weeks and months. I would like to thank Graham, James, Yann and all the other wonderful people who tirelessly work at attempting to put the entire Lovelock Family Picture together. It really is like a gigantic puzzle! Kudos to you all!

**Bill Lovelock**  
**US Embassy Beijing, China**

# LOVELOCK AVATARS

Updates to my survey of the literary use of the Lovelock name have been ongoing since #2. Until now it has largely been a question of keeping up with recent publications. The original finding that there were early uses in the 1890s and then nothing until the 1990s remained unchallenged, except that the discovery of Miss Read's Thrush Green series in our last issue took us back to 1978. The latest crop of findings makes a radical change to the picture.

To begin with, we can now move back the first literary use of the Lovelock name by four decades to the middle of the 19th century. Capt Valentine Lovelock appears as the villain in *A Dream of the Future*, a comedy by Charles Dance (1794-1863) published in London in 1853. The script can be viewed here: <http://216.239.59.104/search?q=cache:M-prILkWc4J:www.worc.ac.uk/victorian/victorianplays/Vol21xiiDream.pdf+%22lady+lovelock%22&hl=en&ct=clnk&cd=20&gl=uk> Captain Lovelock is the two-timing aspirant to the hand of Georgiana Walsingham. A timely dream of her sister's reveals his falsity and an unhappy marriage is avoided. The play is in the melodramatic tradition with hissed asides of the order of "Curses, my secret is discovered!" And that, of course, is the whole point of the play.

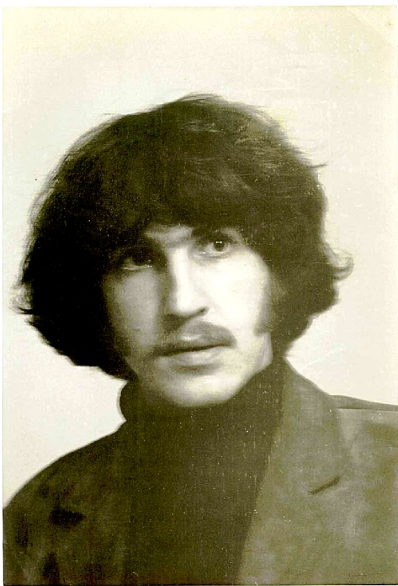
Another Captain Lovelock, twenty five years later, is no more trustworthy a character. He is the Honourable Augustus Lovelock, who appears in an early novel by none less than Henry James (1843-1916). The reason the more literary among us may not have come across the reference before is that *Confidence* was reckoned the worst of James' novels, even by the author eventually. The book went through several editions between its first English appearance in 1879 and its last US reappearance in 1891 but James decided not to include it in the definitive New York collected edition of his works (1905-9). There is now an online version of it ([http://www.online-literature.com/henry\\_james/confidence/](http://www.online-literature.com/henry_james/confidence/)) for those interested.

The novel is not as bad as some considered in earlier issues but shares the same characteristics that mar them: unrealistic plotting together with characters that are stereotypes and remain unchanged by their experiences. Captain Lovelock is a typical example – a tall and handsome English dimwit, blonde bearded and monocled. 'He is a good fellow,' the heroine remarks, 'but he is a mere trifler. He hasn't a penny, I believe, but he has very expensive habits. He gambles a great deal.' The rest of the characters are New Yorkers and the main business of the plot is to get a couple of friends married to the two women they meet while on European tour, despite various emotional complications. One of these complications is Captain Lovelock, whom we first encounter in full pursuit of Blanche Evers, a lively flirt who almost matches him for mutton-headedness. She is chaperoned by Mrs Vivian, whose daughter Angela is the other provider of romantic interest. An orgy of rage and jealousy was what James originally planned for the novel's development rather than its swift and unrealistic dispelling of problems at the end and the banal promise of everyone living happily ever after once Captain Lovelock is seen off.

Another preoccupation of the original survey was what made the authors of the books choose that particular name. The Captain Lovelock in *Confidence* is 'the younger brother of a lord'; the two later 19th century characters already discussed are also titled. Since both

the latter lived in Stuart times, I suggested that the Cavalier poet Richard Lovelace was their model but that prudence motivated the change in their names. Henry James was living in England when he wrote his novel, so the process might have been the same with him. Some corroboration of this conjecture was given by the Australian poet John Tranter when I enquired about his much more recent use of the Lovelock name. This is in “Breathless”, one of four verse novellas in his *The Floor of Heaven* (Angus & Robinson, 1992, <http://johntranter.com/oo/the-floor-of-heaven.pdf>). Here ‘Lovelock, a young painter with thick red hair,’ makes one of a foursome at a drunken dinner in a Sydney restaurant around the year 1969. He and another diner stumble out in search of a Chinese restaurant about which they have been arguing, leaving the other two to an intimate conversation. It’s quite wonderful how many Lovelock characters exist simply so they can be dismissed when the plot gets interesting!

John Tranter explained that “I had in mind as a model for that character a young poet I had known: talented, but with a slight talent, and a little pretentious. He liked to fantasise that he was of high birth from an old family, when in fact he was just a suburban boy. The name ‘Lovelace’ occurred to me; and there was a Richard Lovelace who was a 17th-century English love poet. In those times poets had long hair, and again in the late 1960s. ‘Lovelace’ though was somewhat contaminated by the movie *Deep Throat*, and I wanted to avoid those suggestions. Thinking of luxuriantly long hair, I came upon “locks”, then Lovelock. I had a vague idea that there was a literary character called Lovelock, though I didn't know exactly where. My character would have loved his long hair. And that's it!”



Except that it isn't. Who might have been the ‘literary character called Lovelock’ that Tranter vaguely remembers? It could even have been me, since I made a few appearances in Australian magazines between 1979-86. It could have been Dr Lovelock in the film *Deep Throat 3* (Arrow Productions, 1989), not a sequel to the original film of 1972

but one of four further parallel fantasies on the same theme. Linda Lovelace had been the star in the first *Deep Throat* and it had been the notoriety of her name that decided Tranter against using it. Obviously, though, the closeness to it of Lovelock suggested itself not just to Tranter but to the script writer in search of a name for his knife-happy medic that would jog the memory of those who admired the original *Deep Throat*. Personally I doubt whether Tranter was aware of either myself or the film; more probably it was one or other of two recent New Zealand novels incorporating the name that was at the back of his mind: Maurice Shadbolt's *The Lovelock Version* (1980) or James McNeish's *Lovelock* (1986).

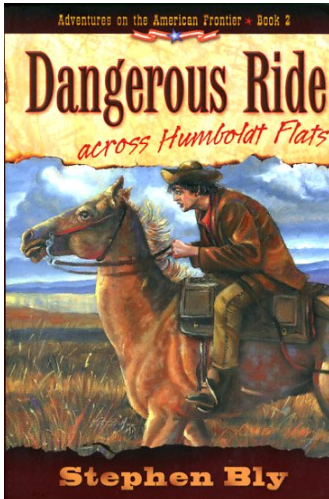
Conjecture can only take you so far and in some cases shoots very wide of the mark. The circumstances behind the choice of the name in the short story “The Stars Are Screaming”, which appeared on a website in 2004 (<http://www.ubersite.com/m/29549>), provides a cautionary tale in this respect. The story concerns Private Lovelock, a ‘field medic’ who has to tend a mortally wounded and hallucinating man, apparently during the desert warfare in World War 2. Scott James, its author, was 23 at the time and living in Reading. Presently he is working with people with disabilities and studying to become an EFL teacher.

There were two very likely sources for the name that Scott could easily have come across. One local circumstance is that the present deputy council leader in Reading, where he is living, is Ms Jo Lovelock and she has had a high news profile. Near to the time of writing

there was an even more widely publicised news item concerning the bizarre murder of Tristian Lovelock in nearby Basingstoke. He was killed by a drinking partner, who then sawed up the body and strewed the pieces about the town before fleeing to America. The story first broke in June 2002 and the two-week trial finally took place in June the following year.

It seems, however, that Scott does not read newspapers. Here is his account of where the name came from. “I would love to say that I chose that surname for its connotations but, in fact, when I was originally writing the story the character's name was 'Loveluck', named after the man who used to mend my father's shoes. I am, in fact, from Porthcawl, South Wales, which was also home to the cobbler from whom I borrowed the original name. It was only when I ran a spellcheck over the first draft that the computer 'corrected' my spelling with the word 'Lovelock' rather than 'Loveluck'. I liked the name so much that I decided to keep it.”

Even when the literary sleuth's guess is right, however, there may well be additional circumstances that have not occurred to him. Stephen Bly's Wild West novel *Dangerous Ride Across Humboldt Flats* came out from Crossway Press in 2003 and the first two chapters are currently available here [www.gnpcb.org/assets/products/excerpts/1581344724.1.pdf](http://www.gnpcb.org/assets/products/excerpts/1581344724.1.pdf) Stephen is a prolific author, mayor of Winchester, Idaho, and pastor of the community church there. In the opening chapters an orphaned Pony Express rider comes across Trent Lovelock and his family on Humboldt Flats in the year 1860. “*With them*”, the book's blurb continues, “*Gabe Young discovers a whole lot more than shelter and a meal. He discovers a father's provision, a mother's love and a young girl's interest. But most of all he discovers God's grace. Gabe can hardly believe the family's tender care for him, and when he gets a chance to help them he rides several legs of the dangerous Pony Express trail with the news of Abraham Lincoln's election and the impending civil war.*”



Apart from the fact that George Lovelock was in California in 1860 and did not reach this area of Nevada until six years later, it seems clear who is the inspiration behind the fictitious Trent Lovelock. The discrepancy bothered the author as well but, as he explained, there were other reasons for the choice. “The series is aimed for the 9 - 14 year old and I had two reasons for choosing the name. First, it would give an approximate location for kids who were interested in looking at a map. But the primary reason was that in the 3-book series (called *Adventures on the American Frontier*) I chose protagonist names of Joyton (book #1), Lovelock (book #2) and Hopewell (book #3) – Joy, Love and Hope are the underlying themes of each of the books. Lovelock was convenient, but I did debate it some because of the post-civil war arrival of George Lovelock. My first choice was Loving, as in the Goodnight-Loving cattle trail up from Texas to Colorado... but having a name that looked like a participle didn't quite work for me.”

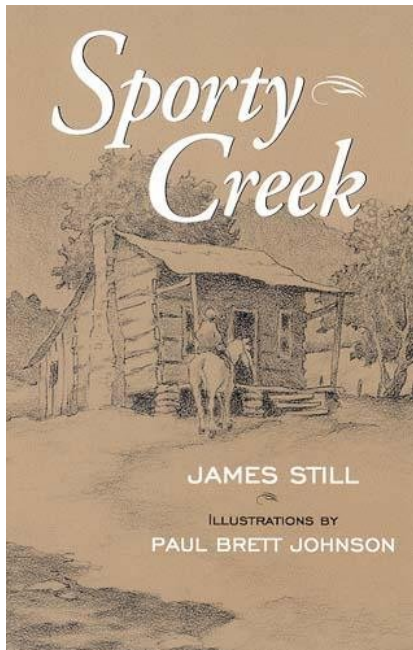
Technical reasons and authorial instinct come foremost, it emerges. John Walker confirmed this when I asked about his novel for adolescents, *Lucy Lovelock: a girl in a whirl* (2004). As was noted in #4 last year, Lucy has as her companions Jenny Penny and Gina Cappucino. What was so special about her name that it alone alliterates rather than rhymes, I wondered. “To be honest,” John replied, “I am not sure where it came from. I have no relation of that name. I have written a few books now, and I have noticed at the time when an idea springs to mind you say to yourself, ‘I like that,’ but after that unless it has a bearing on your own life you tend to leave it in the fictional world and don't

investigate it any further.” Alliteration may also have suggested the use of the Welsh version of our name in the play *Who Is Lenny Loveluck?* A group project by students, it was put on at Birmingham University in 2003. The plot concerns a girl’s quest for her bandleader father through the gangster dominated streets of 1930’s New York.

Much the same consideration holds true in the case of an earlier novel for adolescents, Dennis Hamley’s *Spirit of the Place*, published in 1995 and presently out of print. He comments that ‘there was no particular reason for choosing the name, though I had a hazy memory of a middle distance runner called Jack Lovelock when I was a boy. It came into my mind as a good alliteration with the first name I had already chosen for my heroine - Lindsey. She and her boyfriend Rod are students at the fictitious Stephenson New University. Lindsey is fascinated by an eighteenth century poet, Nicholas Fowler, and starts a long essay on him. Rod is a scientist, fascinated by genetic theory (the novel was written when the human genome project was in full swing). Coswold, Fowler’s old house, is now a centre for genetic research. Fowler not only builds a grotto, based on the actual Scott’s Grotto in Ware, two miles from where I live at present in Hertford, but also sees himself as a scientist as well as a poet and is building a friction machine to produce electricity. His quest leads him to madness and a clash between the centuries as he is catapulted into the present day. That’s an outline of the plot, not very full because it is in fact a quite complicated book. The story proceeds by alternating parts: the eighteenth century sections are written in the present tense, the modern, conventionally, in the past.’

Harry Buschman also pleads the rightness of the name in connection with his very different humorous short story “Goodbye Randy Lovelock”. This first appeared on the literary web site *The Writer’s Voice* in 1996 ([http://www.writers-voice.com/FGHIJ/H/Harry\\_Buschman\\_goodbye\\_randy\\_lovelock.htm](http://www.writers-voice.com/FGHIJ/H/Harry_Buschman_goodbye_randy_lovelock.htm)). Its subject is an unsuccessful middle aged writer of erotic prose who adopts this more romantic nom de plume. According to Brooklyn-born Buschman, who was in his seventies at the time of writing and is still going strong, the name Randy Lovelock arose purely from his imagination - ‘I know no Lovelocks ... or Randys for that matter. You can imagine this

situation arises quite often for authors of stories featuring fictional characters. As well as creating them they must find names for them.’



A final short story, also of American origin, is important for the chronology of the name’s use in fiction. It occurs in James Still’s “The Moving”, the first appearance of which was in *The North Georgia Review* for 1940-1. This long-lived writer (1906-2001) went on to use the episode (and several other previously published stories as well) as a chapter in his second novel, *Sporty Creek* (1977), which was subtitled ‘a novel about an Appalachian boyhood’. Three years later “The Moving” again appeared in the University Press of Kentucky’s collection of his short fiction, *The Run for the Elbertas*.

In Fred Chapell’s “Menfolks Are Heathens”, a study of cruelty in James Still’s stories, the plot is summarised in this way. ‘*The central narrative of "The Moving" is quite simple. Hardstay Mine has closed down and a family is moving out, probably for good. Other members of the community come out to see them off. These include Loss Tramble, a jeering man with a misshapen sense of humor, Cece Goodloe, a mischievous fellow, Hig Sommers, a retarded person who gets events reversed in his head, and Sula Basham, "tall*

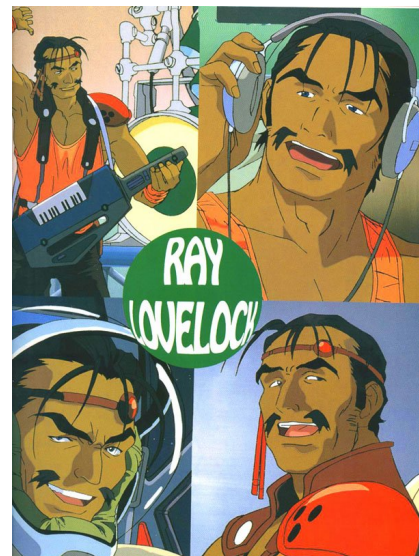


as a butterweed, and with a yellow locket swinging her neck like a clockweight." There are some other characters who mostly just stand about. The people of the settlement bid the family goodbye, exchange a few remarks among themselves, and then the family departs. That's all there is, in probably not more than 3000 words.

'It is a family well thought of. But the sorrow felt at their departure is couched in language that is mostly scornful and querulous. Sill Lovelock says, "Hit's mortal sin to make gypsies of a family. I say as long's a body has got a roofree, let him roost under it." Lovelock is not accustomed to voicing sadness; words of frustrated anger are as close as he can come, and his last farewell is: "You're making your bed in Hell!" It is likely that the mother and father can interpret the sad feelings behind Lovelock's harsh sentences, but the story is told by a young boy who cannot. For him it is a comfortless leave taking.'

Family genealogists will be able to tell us whether there were any Lovelocks in the Appalachian region to lend their name to Still's character. That the story concerns a mining community is suggestive, since there were several Lovelocks who were miners and pursued their vocations overseas. Indeed, George Lovelock did so in Nevada. Meanwhile, the first appearance of "The Moving" narrows the gap between the last purely American appearance of our name (in Helen Gray Cone's poem "The Last Cup of Canary", 1891) and the next, in Still's story. And as we learned from Bob Chapman's article in our last issue, there were only to be twelve years between the first publication of this story and John Duke's opera, *Captain Lovelock* (1953).

What we have now established is that the Lovelock name appears in a small cluster of literary works in the US and UK during Victorian times. To these may be added the doubtful case of *Master Lovelock's Comic Banjo Solos Songster*, published in New York in 1874. Then there is nothing until the two American appearances discussed above. From the 1980s on, however, use becomes brisk and there is a subset of Antipodean works between 1980-92. This is probably due to the familiarity given the name by the posthumous fame of Jack Lovelock. James Lovelock has also given the name a higher profile since the publication of *Gaia* in 1979 and its follow-up volumes. This may have contributed to inclusion of the name in a series of sci-fi comics and TV series, including *Tank Police* (1992-4), *Marcross 7* (1994-5) and *Soul Heaven* (2005), and perhaps in sci-fi novels like *Lovelock* (1994) and *Monkey Trap* (2004). Just this year Eric Brown's novel *Helix* featured a rocket ship named "Lovelock". Since 1995 the name has also been used in a number of works for young people, to be prolonged in 2008 by its appearance in Alex Millway's *The Mouse Pirates*. Apart from the special case of *Dangerous Ride* (2003), the authors involved disavow any reference to a known Lovelock.



It may just be that the apparent growing popularity of our name is because the web gives access to more recent appearances and allows us to follow literary use year by year now. Some examples are in works so evanescent or bad that they are bound to disappear again before long. Such a natural process of wastage may well have hidden earlier instances over the century and a half of this survey.

***Yann Lovelock***

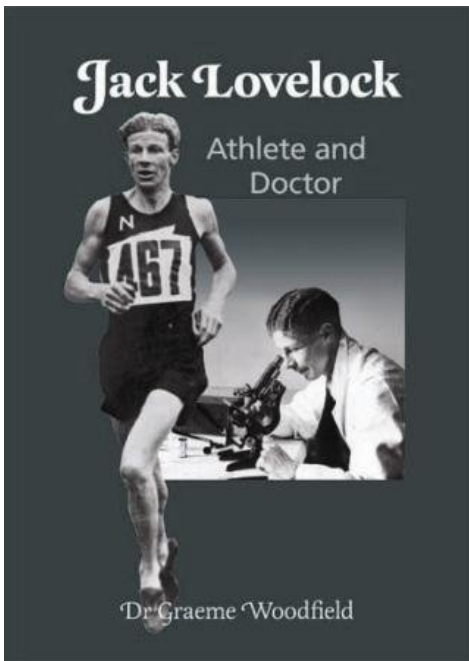
# Jack Lovelock

A preview by Robert Chapman

A new biography of New Zealand's Jack Lovelock was published on 25 October 2007 by Trio Books Limited, a Wellington publishing house. Dr Graeme Woodfield's *Jack Lovelock: Athlete and Doctor* is the most comprehensive look to date at Lovelock, 1500-metre Gold Medalist at the 1936 Berlin Olympics, world record-holder (3:47.8), and later physician.

In 1933, at a 'Race of the Century' (hyperbole's been around awhile) in Princeton, New Jersey (USA), he set a world's record in the mile (4:07.6). In December 1949, just eight days shy of his fortieth birthday, Dr Lovelock was tragically killed when struck by a New York City subway train. He left behind a widow and two young daughters.

Earlier biographies have concentrated almost exclusively on Lovelock's athletic career. Dr Woodfield, an Auckland haematologist, conducted exhaustive research in New Zealand, the U.K. and the U.S.A., in addition to drawing upon the extensive archives of the Alexander Turnbull Library in Wellington. While critical of conclusions drawn by James McNeish in his controversial 1986 bio-novel, *Lovelock* (Auckland: Hodder & Stoughton, 1986) Woodfield acknowledges his indebtedness to McNeish's earlier research, which forms a significant portion of the Turnbull's Lovelock Collection.



Previous studies of Lovelock's life include Norman Harris's *The Legend of Lovelock* (Wellington: A. H. & A. W. Reed, 1964.), and Christopher Tobin's *Lovelock: New Zealand's Olympic Gold Miler* (Dunedin: John McIndoe, 1984).

Despite his fame, Lovelock has been an enigmatic, elusive figure. This prompted fellow Timaru Boys' High School old boy Woodfield to embark on a comprehensive study of Lovelock. Woodfield has examined the many facets of Lovelock - athlete, doctor, journalist, soldier, family man - and, drawing on the contributions of several specialists - completed what is virtually a forensic investigation of this famous New Zealander.

Besides dealing with Lovelock's brilliant running and under-rated medical, military and journalistic contributions, Woodfield has written of the accidents that affected his life after 1940 and has dealt thoroughly with the theory that he committed suicide. He now offers the most comprehensive and readable account of this New Zealand icon's life.

Lovelock's surviving daughter, Mary, who lives in Raleigh, North Carolina (USA), has called Woodfield's biography "the best account of my father's life to date."

*Jack Lovelock: Athlete and Doctor* (ISBN 978-0-9582455-9-3) can be ordered for NZ\$29.99 at <http://www.triobooks.co.nz/>