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The Life of Times **JOSEPH FORRESTER**

Joseph Forrester was born at Perth, Scotland, in 1805. He was orphaned at the age of eight and was brought up by an aunt and uncle, with whom he began a silversmithing apprenticeship in 1820. In 1825 Joseph and his older brother, William, moved to London where William opened a silversmith's business of his own. Joseph occasionally worked for William and other silversmiths, jewellers and watchmakers in the Clerkenwell district. In 1828, encouraged by a "wanton woman" he stole some diamonds from a Ludgate Hill jewellery store. He was caught, tried, and sentenced to death. The sentence was commuted to transportation for life. After arriving at Hobart, Van Diemen's Land in late 1829, Joseph worked for jeweller, David Barclay, until he was granted limited freedom in 1841 when he married and opened his own business. In 1846 Joseph and his wife moved to Melbourne, in Victoria, or Port Phillip as it was then called. In Melbourne he worked for various jewellers including retail jeweller, Charles Brentani. In early 1849, Forrester, Brentani, and Frenchman Alexandre Duchene, were key figures in a gold rush to the Pyrenees Ranges, north-west of Melbourne. The gold rush was quickly shut down and no more said about gold until after Port Phillip separated from New South Wales in July 1851. In 1855 Joseph, like Abel Magwitch in *Great Expectations*, decided to illegally return to Scotland. The reception he received when he arrived in London was totally unexpected and he returned to Australia.

This book not only tells the story of Joseph Forrester's life, but also introduces us to the galaxy of characters that came in and out of his life during his time at Hobart, Melbourne, Ballarat, and finally Beechworth.

DOUGLAS WILKIE has a PhD from the University of Melbourne, in which he investigated long forgotten or misunderstood origins of the Victorian gold rushes of 1851. He also has a BA, BEd, MA and MEd from Monash University with major studies in Visual Arts, Ancient History, Renaissance History, Australian History and Victorian Educational History. He has published numerous articles and books on subjects related to Van Diemen's Land convicts and the early history of Port Phillip District. In 2014 he was appointed an Honorary Fellow in the School of Philosophical and Historical Studies at the University of Melbourne.

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DOUGLAS WILKIE *The Life of Times* **JOSEPH FORRESTER**

THE STORY OF A COLONIAL WATCHMAKER AND SILVERSMITH,
THE PEOPLE HE MET AND WORLD IN WHICH HE LIVED



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Among those characters be found: Alexander Morrison; James Courtney; Richard Naylor; John Barker; Thomas Tilley; Edward Johnson; Thomas Hamilton; Archibald Simpson; Charles Jones; William Wright] William Cole; Alexander Dick; Robert Broad; Henry Daniel Ley; William Patterson; Thomas & David Hill; Alexander Julien Duchene; Jules Felix Charet; Jame Robe; John Porter; Charles Albert Salmon; Joseph Doiron; Henry Hancock; William Bennett; Dougald McGregor; William Halbert; Charles Brentanil Jules Felix Charet; Patrick Sheedy; George Wise; John Holly; George Knight; Daniel Fitzpatrick; Edward Vernon; Frederick Hornblower!; William McLelland; Robert Kerr; Charles Duncan; Thomas Fleming Cook; James Charles Willis; and Charles Duchatel.

Many were watchmakers and jewellers. Others were grocers, tailors, hotel-keepers, pawnbrokers. Many were former convicts. Others were free-settlers. But they all came in and out of Joseph Forrester's life.

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