

*Regional Migration in SA: How Early Migrants Shaped  
Our Culture – A Cornish Case Study*

*Philip Payton*



## *Summary*

- South Australia has long enjoyed a prominent place in both the historiography and ‘mythology’ of the Cornish transnational identity, from the ‘coppermania’ of Kapunda and Burra Burra in the 1840s to the rise of ‘Australia’s Little Cornwall’ at Moonta and environs in the 1860s and subsequently. This talk examines the enduring cultural impact of these early Cornish migrants in SA, and seeks to place South Australia’s Cornish connection within the broader contextual framework of ethno-cultural diversity and heterogeneity in Colonial and pre-WW2 Australia as a whole. It also locates the SA experience within the expansion of the nineteenth-century hard-rock mining frontier and the emergence with the Cornish transnational identity. Here the 1840s and 1860s are seen to be pivotal decades in the development of both the frontier and the transnational identity, establishing among other things a symbiotic relationship between Cornwall and South Australia at moments of rapid and profound change. This symbiosis was responsible, it is argued, for the privileged place of South Australia within ‘imaginings’ of the Cornish diaspora but also for the diverse nature of the cultural impact – economic, technological, religious, political, and so on – of those early migrants in SA itself.

## *Cousin Jack comes of age? SA and a Transnational Identity*



- The ‘Myth’ of Cousin Jack
- South Australia as ‘Paradise of Dissent’
- Expansion of the international copper frontier:
- Michigan; Kapunda, Burra  
Burra and the Adelaide Hills

## *Wallaroo & Moonta: on the cusp of change?*

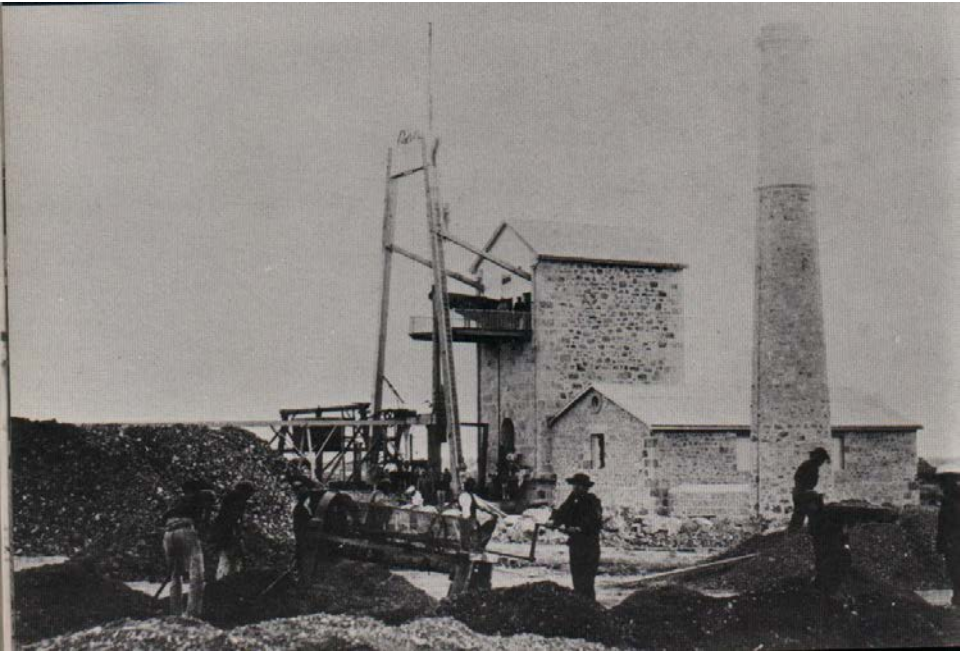


- 1860s - a decade of change
- Making Moonta's Myth

*The Cult of Captain Hancock: Intellectual Cultural Transfer*



## *Technology Transfer: Material & Intellectual Culture*

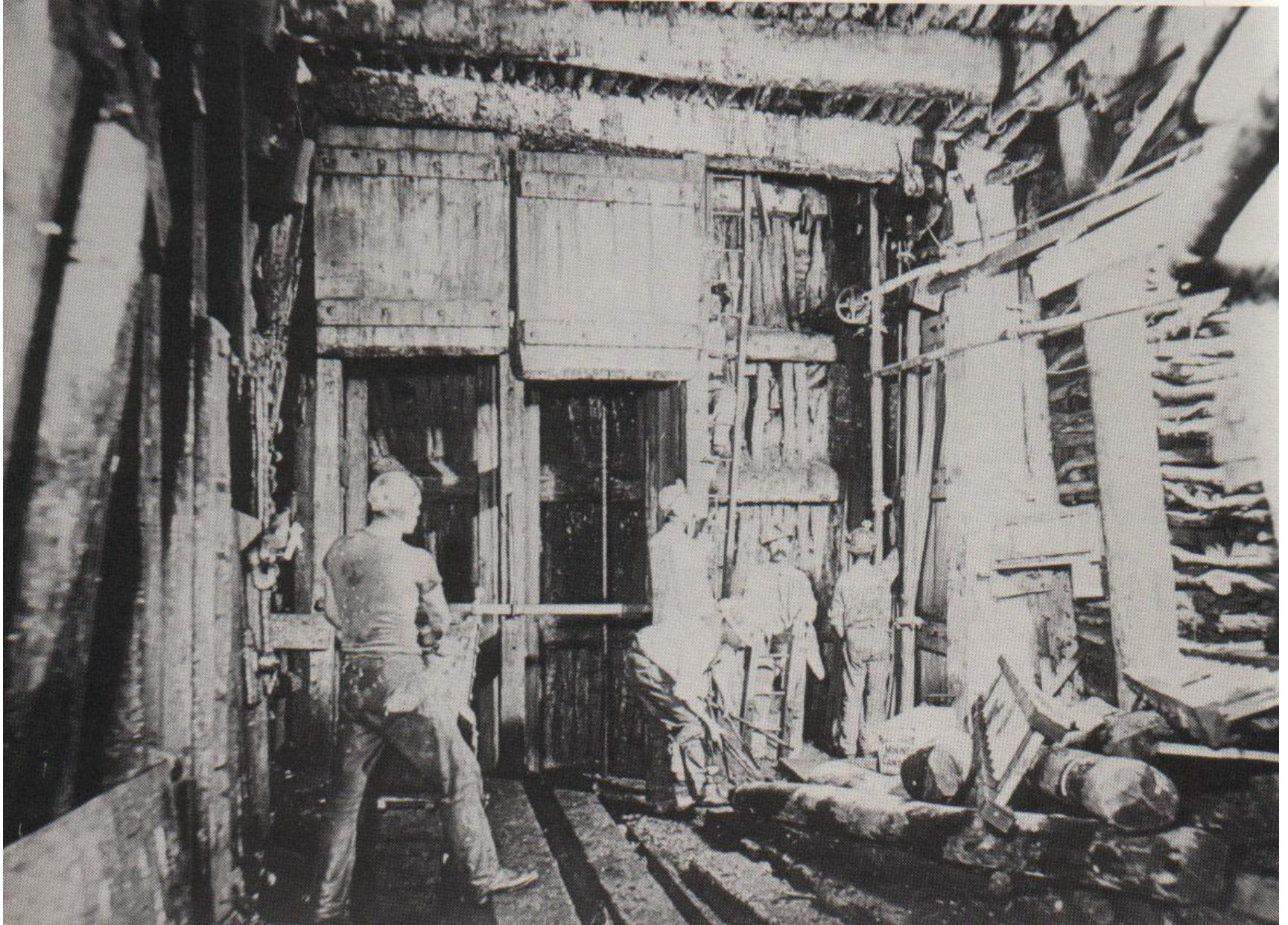


- Machinery
- Terminology
- Organization

*Personnel: Moonta Mines*



*Personnel: Wallaroo mines*





*'Australia's Little Cornwall'*



*Institutions: Cultural*



*Institutions: Religious*



*Institutions: Industrial/Political*



# *Cornwall & South Australia: An Enduring Relationship?*

## EMIGRATION

TO

## *South Australia.*

### **Mr. I. Latimer,** (AGENT FOR SOUTH AUSTRALIA)

Having been requested to explain the principles of COLONIZATION adopted by the SOUTH AUSTRALIAN COMMISSIONERS with regard to this Colony, begs to announce that he will deliver

## **A FREE LECTURE**

ON TUESDAY EVENING NEXT, AUGUST 27, 1839.

### ***At the King's Head Inn, Chacewater.***

As the Lecture is particularly intended for the instruction and benefit of the WORKING CLASSES, it is hoped that all those who feel interested in the subject will give their attendance punctually.

The Lecture will commence at Seven o'clock *precisely*, and at the conclusion the Lecturer will be happy to answer any questions relative to the Colony. Mr. Latimer will be in attendance at the KING'S HEAD previously, to give information to any Laborer, Mechanic, or Artisan, who may be desirous of obtaining a FREE PASSAGE to the Colony.

Truro, August 19, 1839.

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