

**AUSTRALIAN JOINT COPYING PROJECT**

**HOLYOAKE FAMILY**

**Letters, 1854-81**

**Reel M392**

**Cooperative Union Ltd.  
Holyoake House  
Hanover Street  
Manchester 4**

**National Library of Australia  
State Library of New South Wales**

**Filmed: 1962**

## BIOGRAPHICAL NOTES

George Jacob Holyoake (1817-1906) was born in Birmingham, the son of a printer. He received a basic education and then worked in the Eagle Foundry. In 1836 he joined the Mechanics Institute and about this time became interested in the ideas of the social reformer Robert Owen (1771-1858). In 1839 he became a lecturer for the Owenite Central Board in Worcester, later moving to Sheffield, Glasgow and London. He edited *The Movement* (1843-45) and *The Reasoner* (1846-61), expounding his views on cooperation and secularism. In 1849 he established a printing firm with his brother Austin Holyoake. In London he was associated with many reform organisations and was acquainted with Liberal parliamentarians and writers such as John Stuart Mill, G.H. Lewes and Harriet Martineau. Holyoake's later years were mainly devoted to journalism and lecturing on liberalism and the cooperative movement. He presided over the Cooperative Congress in Carlisle in 1887. He was the author of *Self help for the people* (1858), *The history of cooperation* (1875) and *The origin and nature of secularism* (1896).

Horatio Holyoake (1822-1892), one of the brothers of George Jacob Holyoake, emigrated to Australia and worked on the Victorian goldfields in the 1850s. In later years he was a newsagent in Melbourne.

Henry Thomas Groves Holyoake (1831-1881), one of the brothers of George Holyoake, worked as a printer in London before emigrating to Victoria in 1853. He had been active in the Chartist movement in England and in Victoria he was a leading figure in the Ballarat Reform League and the goldfields Reform League. He started a newspaper, the *Diggers Advocate Goldfields Weekly*. At the time of the Eureka uprising, he was in Bendigo, seeking to raise funds for the Ballarat miners. In later years he was a bookseller and a master saddler in Melbourne.

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Horatio, Henry and Eliza Holyoake (Melbourne) to their mother Catherine Holyoake, sisters and brothers, Nov. 1854: their struggles over the last twelve months; suggests that hint be given to intending emigrants to stay home; thousands of immigrants landing every day; Mr Nicholls has had dysentery; have not heard from Austin or George Holyoake; they have few possessions but is not as hungry as when he landed; Horatio is thinking of going to diggings; Henry has opened a store at the Ballarat diggings.

Horatio Holyoake (Ballarat) to Catherine Holyoake, 22 April 1885: has tried many trades since arrival; wishes he had been a digger from the outset; fight between the digger and troops; Sir Charles Hotham is returning to England which is a good thing; rough society at diggings with tents regularly broken into; forced to sleep with a loaded revolver under his head; Austin and George Holyoake have never written; expects Henry Holyoake will get married.

Henry Holyoake (Melbourne) to George Holyoake, 25 March 1863: sends *Argus* with report of his marriage; wonders if their mother is still alive; his work as a master saddler; Horatio and Eliza Holyoake are up the country. (incomplete)

Horatio Holyoake (Blackwood, Victoria) to George Holyoake, 26 Nov. 1867: promises to send newspapers; the Reform Bill in Britain; 'racy lot' of members of Victorian Parliament; is living in an out of the way place.

Horatio Holyoake (Melbourne) to George Holyoake, Sept. 1881: recent meeting with Henry Holyoake living in Bourke (Street?); he has opened a saddlery shop; Horatio's work as a contractor; lectures [by George] published in newspapers; Eliza's illness; family members.

Henry Holyoake (Melbourne) to George Holyoake, 18 May 1873: regrets that he has not corresponded; Henry's vindication of George in the *Argus*; George's fame in Australia; Henry's wife and children; working in his trade; earnings; poor health of George and Austin Holyoake; requests news of their siblings.

Note: Other papers of George Holyoake, including letters of Horatio Holyoake, held at the Cooperative Union Ltd., were filmed by the Australian Joint Copying Project on reel M865.