

Belvedere

5302

Mar. 9. 87.

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2033

My dear Lydia

I am afraid I cannot give you much more information respecting the family, but it is curious how much the old jewellery helps us in the matter & it is very curious that two of the Thomas Wren rings should have gone to Australia. I have remembered since I wrote to you last that Bella has a small mourning brooch with pearls & a ring of Hacks & white enamel round them & I know it has an inscription on but have no recollection of the name, so have

thought it possible that it may
be "Sarah's Work": it belonged to
my mother. I will ask Bella -
If there is some hair work
in the family, chains & Crochet
mounted in gold, but not with
an initial on them. these too
were my mother's & there has
come to me a kind of hazy
recollection of having been told
they were made of the hair of a
sister who had died. here may
be the "remembrance" of Alice or
Sarah instead of the ring - I dare
you or the Back house may have
some of the hair work. I took
mine, crop & neck chain to my
grandchild Lela last Summer.

I am sorry I cannot give
you the date of my parents' mar-

riage, but as Mary Mann was
born June 26. 1819 I think we
may pretty safely place it - in
the preceding year. my father's
name was Edward he died
Augst 4th 1829 & my mother
March 19th 1832. aged only 36 -

I did know of the "curse" but
did not mention it as I knew
you were aware of it - too, as
you had told me how your
Aunt Back house had been
disturbed by the thought of
of the poor boy in her last
illness, but my dear Lydia
I cannot regard it as you
do, for I feel that our lives
are controlled by a much
higher Intelligence than that
of an ignorant & naturally vic-
tious woman, besides as I

was always led to understand
the wish, or prediction, or what-
ever we may call it, was that
"no member of the mill owner's
family should prosper for two
generations". it was not to go on
for ever, so you see, even if he
himself were not counted,
two clear generations passed
before it reached you - and there
is a strangeness in it all -
your great grandfather the
said mill owner I believe did
a wealthy man, for I remem-
ber distinctly hearing my Mo-
ther say on some occasion when
money was very scarce with
her "Oh how little my poor fa-
ther thought of this, he often

said he should leave all his ^{assets} ^{enough} to keep their carrying.
Will he died without a will
& all the money went to his
son Thomas, who behaved
generously & apinged to each
sister such portion as he thought
his father would have done,
but unfortunately the capital
remained in the business - after
a time he was led to specu-
late in sinking coal pits at
Worselt & all the money, his
own & his sisters' was lost.
We only received as our por-
tion a few hundred pounds &
your mother & Annal. Backhouse
the same - then in the next
generation all the men were

cut-off in early manhood ex-
cept Fred Ware, & what has his
life been? certainly not one of
prosperity. John Ware, John
Wood & my brother Edward
all died in the same year.

I think you may leave it there
& not let the sad thought ever
of retributive justice go any further.
Did you know that the circum-
stances of the poor boy was men-
tioned in a book of "Lancashire
Folk Lore"? I remember seeing
a short review of it in the
Academy four years ago. I can-
not remember who the book was
written by, but it was given as
an instance of the barbarous
customs that had prevailed even

up to the beginning of the present century.
I have no recollection of ever
hearing the name of Joanna
Barrow Whitehead & should think
coin, preserved as a treasure
by your grandmother must
have been a love token from
some early admirer! don't
you think so? I feel greatly
interested in all the infor-
mation you are collecting
& if any thing fresh comes
under my notice I will at
once let you know.

With love believe me my dear
Lydia

Your affec^t cousin
Susanna Clemmiston

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