

Hawkesbury Historical Society Newsletter

Newsletter of the Hawkesbury Historical Society Inc.

HAWKESBURY HISTORICAL SOCIETY INC.

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Aim: Hawkesbury Historical Society aims to encourage & preserve the history of the Hawkesbury

Meetings: 4th Thursday, alternate months, 7.30pm-10pm
Hugh Williams Room at the Museum in Baker Street, Windsor

Open to: People interested in the preservation of the history of the Hawkesbury, new members welcome.

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Vale: Associate Professor
R. Ian Jack

MA, PhD, Honorary Fellow of the University of
Sydney, FRHistS, FRAHS.

Ian's was indeed a remarkable life.



It was one lived with energy, passion and absolute absorption in whatever he was engaged. He loved his family and enjoyed meeting with his friends. When he passed away at the beginning of September 2019, his skills and talents had taken him to the top of not just one vocation but many. Ian was meticulous in his work as an historian, and was proud of his role in co-founding Historical Archaeology at the University of Sydney. As many in this district know, he took great care to make every

MEETINGS

Thursday, 24 October 2019 - 7:30pm **AGM**

Hugh Williams Room
HAWKESBURY REGIONAL MUSEUM

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guest lecture he gave interesting, whether addressing a local historical society or a grand conference. He was a member of a great many societies and currently guided several as President, including Hawkesbury Historical Society and the Blue Mountains Association of Cultural Heritage Organisations. His many learned books and articles were acclaimed.



Ian Jack reading a book related to Margaret Catchpole, in connection with the 'Margaret Catchpole Tour' which Ian and Jan Barkley-Jack organised for Hawkesbury Historical Society with Robyn and Penelope Sharpe. Jan took the photograph to capture Ian deeply absorbed, in the way he was with any new information. March 2019.

Ian took up heritage causes all across NSW. At Hawkesbury, Ian was prominent in reminding the community that a district as historic as ours could both preserve its heritage to advantage and modernise. In his last years he was particularly concerned with the preservation of Thompson Square, St Matthew's Church Windsor and Wilberforce's St John's Church.



Talk by historians Ian Jack and Jan Barkley-Jack, with Former Governor of NSW Dame Marie Bashir, on 12 November 2016.



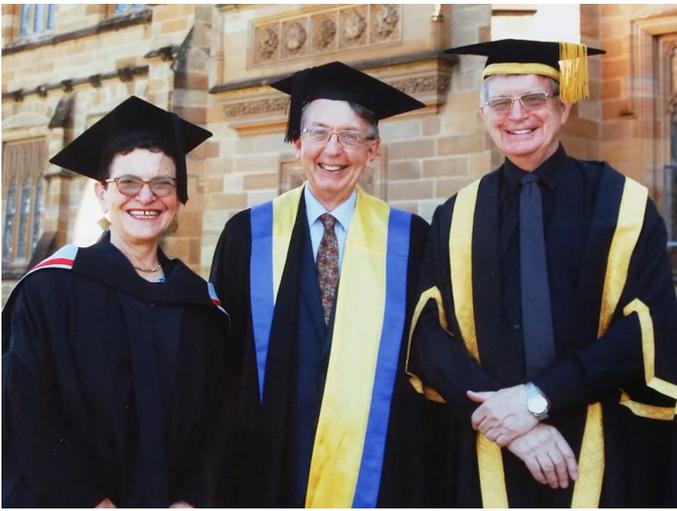
Ian Jack in concert – University of Sydney

He was a talented and accomplished pianist who early in life had to make a choice as to whether to become a concert pianist or an historian. In his usual way he managed to juggle both. He rose to the top in his profession but retained music as an important adjunct, regularly and with much joy accompanying professional singers and making music with internationally acclaimed musicians.

'Whilst he chose history, Ian always kept music performance as a high priority, accompanying talented professionals... In music he found not just a joy but an essential core to his life.' Jan's Talk at Ian's College Service 19.9.2019

'Ian gave annual concerts for the Centre for Celtic Studies from the University of Sydney for a great many years, and over 40 years encouraged music to the highest level amongst the students in College.' Jan's talk at Ian's Chapel Crematorium service 19.9.2019

In a wider sphere Ian had served the longest term to date as President of the Royal Australian Historical Society, was an ex-member of the NSW Heritage Council, and was Senior Fellow of St Andrew's College within the University of Sydney (See following, Ian's Citation by the Hon. John Howard OM, AC for the award of an Honorary Fellowship of the University of Sydney). He was an Associate Professor of History, and had served as Dean of the Faculty of Arts, Head of the Department of History and Chair of the Board of Studies in Music, all at the University of Sydney.



Ian Jack on the occasion of being conferred his highest honour, the Honorary Fellowship of the University of Sydney

‘Ian’s main professional expertise was history, archaeology and heritage where he reached respected and leadership peaks while quietly mentoring associates from University to local history groups and generation after generation of students. While as vast in intellect and talent as the Merrick was enthralling, Ian gave his prodigious knowledge generously, but humbly.’ Jan’s Talk at Ian’s College Service 19.9.2019

Born in Scotland in the small North Ayrshire town of Dalry, with his mother he had moved to live in Dumfries with his grandparents and aunt while his banker father was away in Morocco serving in World War II. He was dux of Ayr Academy, attended Glasgow University and did his doctorate at London University. He arrived in Sydney in 1961 and returned to Britain only for holidays.

‘There is a hill in Ian’s much-loved Scotland called The Merrick. It is in the Carrick Hills near Ian’s boyhood home of Dumfries. As a teenager, Ian found walking in the hills gave him much joy. Once, when he and I were in Scotland he had suggested we walk the Merrick, but refrained from telling me that it was the highest hill, or should

we say mountain, in southern Scotland at 922 metres.

My daughter, Ellise, and myself, set out one summer day with Ian. We soon understood Ian’s excitement. A gentle climb initially past a softly babbling brook set the scene in the heather. It soon gave way to a large pine forest which stretched as far as we could see in all directions, then open country, then a peat bog. The climb continued, when out of nowhere we were hit by a hailstorm and finally we reached an old drystone cottage, long abandoned but picturesque and surrounded by Scottish thistles. We saw what we thought was the top of the rise and our hearts lifted, but on attaining that peak we saw the Merrick stretching still ahead of us with endless such peaks.

The Merrick for me has become the symbol of Ian’s long and successful journey through life. Like the landscape of that beautiful hill walk, Ian was filled with energy and joy in all he did. His life had continuity but was ever changing, never boring and always reached above most others. He loved his family, and eating with his friends and he loved all his multitude of interests and guises. Like the Merrick’s seemingly endless climb, his skills took him to the heights of many worlds and whenever he reached a pinnacle in one direction he could see a multitude of others



Ian Jack on a beach track in south-west Western Australia in late 2018.

Ian Jack will be sadly missed. His quiet gifts made him 'a gentle man' in all senses of the word. He was truly a remarkable driving force in the community and held the high esteem of all from the academic world to his local Hawkesbury connections which date back to the 1970s. We will remember his voice and his smile as we recall how privileged we were to know and learn from him.



Ian Jack whilst working at Upper Colo cemetery, c.2015.

'For all his journeys and successes, my husband Ian Jack was an intensely private person. He held his personal feelings close inside, and as his wife I felt privileged whenever he chose to share part of them with me. I understood this need, for I had come from a very similar background to him as an only child of reserved, quiet and

upright parents in an era where love was present but not demonstratively given to children. It also meant that we were both used to solitude and could easily cope with spending time apart, but could enjoy our times together. I loved him very much.'

Jan's Talk at Ian's College Service 19.9.2019

'Many of you have also commented how young in appearance and boyishly full of enthusiasm he remained all his life. Ian was aware of this and had commented to me tongue in cheek that it was a magical connection with the book character Peter Pan that did it, because he had lived for a time in a Scottish house where JM Barrie, the writer of *Peter Pan* had also lived.'

Jan's talk at Ian's Chapel Crematorium service 19.9.2019



Ian Jack - Christmas 2015

We offer our heartfelt
condolences to you
Jan and your family
for the sad loss of your
beloved Ian,
our treasured President

Associate Professor Ian Jack

An honorary fellowship of the University was conferred upon Ian Jack by the Chair Academic Board, Associate Professor Anthony Masters at a Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences graduation at 11.30am on 13 May 2016.

Citation

Associate Professor Masters, it gives me great pleasure to present Associate Professor Ian Jack to you for the award of an Honorary Fellowship of the University of Sydney.

Ian Jack joined the University of Sydney in 1961 as a lecturer in the History department. He became a senior lecturer in 1965, and was appointed associate professor in 1970. He served two consecutive terms as Dean of the Faculty of Arts, from 1974–77, and was Head of the department of History from 1979-1982, and from 1992-1995. After retiring, he became an honorary research associate in 2002.

He is the longest-serving President of the Royal Australian Historical Society, having served in that role from 2003 until 2010 and was elected a Fellow in 2004. He has published extensively in the areas of heritage, local history and historical archaeology.

He was a co-founder of the discipline of Historical Archaeology in the University of Sydney in 1974, and one of the first practitioners of industrial archaeology in Australia. In his position as Dean of the faculty of Arts, Ian played a further key role in the development of the field by facilitating the introduction of the first undergraduate subject in the area.

He has been vitally involved in the sensitive area of heritage, has been a member of the Heritage Council of NSW, and continues to the present day his twenty year association with this peak body in the Australian heritage landscape.

He has written extensively on matters of historical interest across the world, from Mediaeval Wales to the Hawkesbury and Nepean Valley, and many points between, but perhaps it is the corner of the Grose Farm estate known as St Andrew's College which has held his interest and his affection for the longest time, and for that, the College will be ever grateful.

Within St Andrew's, Ian is the Senior Fellow, having held that position since 1998. In this role, he has guided the Senior Common Room community as its President, coordinating an admirably diverse annual program of "life of the mind" activities. Ian is the College Archivist and Librarian and in addition to managing the College's rare and general reference book collection, he has consolidated a valuable archive which chronicles the College's 150 year history. He has written two editions of the history of Australia's third oldest university college.

He moved into residence in St Andrew's upon appointment as the Wilson Fellow in 1979, was Senior Tutor from 1982 until 1988, became the Hunter Baillie Fellow in Oriental and Polynesian Languages in 1988, and held the Woodhouse Fellowship from 1992 until 1998. In discharging all of these Fellowship responsibilities, Ian has maintained a deep commitment as a mentor, adding enormous value to the academic and intellectual journeys of thousands of college students, across all faculties and disciplines.

As a member of many College Council committees over thirty years his academic analysis and standards are valued and respected, and his thoughtful, meticulous, fair and rigorous argument was persuasive in the occasionally difficult Council context, and particularly in the seismic debates around the admission of women into St Andrew's and the departure of Principal Rev Dr Peter Cameron. He continues to be a remarkable supporter of music in College. The high esteem in which the performing arts are now held in College is due in large part to Ian's durable and seemingly endless enthusiasm for making music, but also for an encouragement towards excellence and fulfilment of potential.

Ian has maintained a conspicuous continued involvement in support of the interests and welfare of the University of Sydney since 1961, and for over thirty-five years the activities of that part of the University known as St Andrew's College. Through his ongoing and lengthy engagement with the Royal Australian Historical Society, Heritage Council and other bodies in the field of historical enquiry he has promoted the academic purposes of the University and fostered the links between the University and other Australian institutions.

Associate Professor Masters, I present Associate Professor Ian Jack and invite you to confer the title of Honorary Fellow of the University upon him.

Annual General Meeting

of the Hawkesbury Historical Society

Thursday, 24 October 2019 – 7.30pm

Hugh Williams Room, Hawkesbury Regional Museum, Baker Street, Windsor

Speakers: Chis Maxwell and Alex Pugh

Topic: The Merchant of Sydney – James Chisholm



Emeritus Professor Chis Maxwell AM

Chis Maxwell graduated from the University of Sydney (BScAgr Hons, 1974, PhD 1979). He studied animal science and later specialised in domestic animal reproduction. After a career in government, academic research and teaching, he retired in 2008 as Pro Dean and was appointed Emeritus Professor of Reproductive Biology in the Faculty of Veterinary Science at the University of Sydney. In 2007 he received the Urrbrae Award for his contributions to the science and practice of Australian agriculture and has been awarded life memberships of the Society for Reproductive Biology (2012) and the International Association for Applied Animal Andrology (2014). In 2017 he was made a Member of the Order of Australia (AM) in the General Division, for significant service to veterinary science in the field of animal reproduction through academic and advisory roles.

Chis has written over 300 scientific articles in international research journals and 4 books. With Alex Pugh he has published two historical biographies: *The Merchant of Sydney* (2015), and *The Master of Hell's Gates* (2017). Since retirement Chis has been involved in lay ministry at St John's Anglican Church, Beecroft. He is married to Belinda and they have two children. ■

Alex Pugh graduated from the University of Sydney (BA Hons, 1975) studying history under Patrick Collinson, Maida Coaldrake, Ros Pesman, Marley Stephen, John O. Ward and R. Ian Jack.

After a career in business (1975-2009), Alex returned actively to historical research, with interests in mediaeval, church, Ottoman-Cyprus and Australian history.

He has published *A Short History of St James' Pitt Town* (1999) and the *Recollections of Mary Pugh née Diacono* (2009), and with Chis Maxwell *The Merchant of Sydney* (2015), and *The Master of Hell's Gates* (2017).

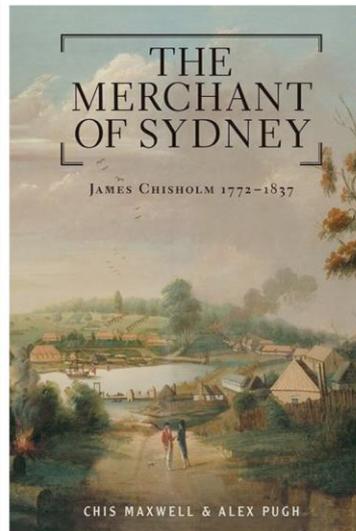
He was involved in Music Directorate, St James' Pitt Town 1997-2008, and in lay ministry there until 2017. ■

THE MERCHANT OF SYDNEY

AUSTRALIAN SCHOLARLY PUBLISHING



CHIS MAXWELL & ALEX PUGH



... being so long situated in this Colony through my own industry and perseverance I thought it advisable to remain and improve my condition which thank God I have done ...

James Chisholm, Sydney, 15th February 1823

James Chisholm was an important pioneer of colonial Australia, contributing to its business and banking, democratic processes and pastoral industry, yet historians have ignored him for two hundred years. He left his native Scotland as a young soldier and travelled half way round the world to a new land where from being a corporal in the Rum Corps he rose to become a leading merchant in Sydney. In a life characterised by faith, loyalty, family and self-improvement, this gruff but quietly spoken Scot, of 'genial and kindly disposition', commanded wide respect and made his mark on a new society.

THE MERCHANT OF SYDNEY,
by Chis Maxwell and Alex Pugh

Visit our Web Site:
<http://www.chismaxwell.com/>

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Alex Pugh

James Brumby and the Wild Brumbies

By Carol Carruthers

There is a local story that the word “brumby”, the name for wild Australian horses, originated in the Hawkesbury.

A soldier named James Brumby (1771 – 1838) was given an early land grant in 1797 on the banks of the Hawkesbury River with three other fellow soldiers where today’s Breakaway Oval stands. This area is the first place in Freemans Reach to be inundated during a flood, as when the water reaches high enough it cuts across the Breakaway, hence the name, and joins the river on the Wilberforce Reach.

The river roars through the Breakaway and leaves the Hawkesbury River in Windsor very quiet and slow moving. The toilet block at the Breakaway Oval gets washed away every time there is a big flood and Council has to rebuild the block.

James Brumby had been born in the farming area of Scotton in Lincolnshire and became a Private in the New South Wales Corp. He came to the colony on board the *Britannia* with the Third Fleet in 1791.

Initially he was given a grant of land at Hunters Hill which was later cancelled as he had made no attempt to farm it, then another 100 acres at Freemans Reach which he shared with Privates William Smith, Thomas Bruin, also known as Brian, and Francis Wilkinson. All four were privates and part of the store guard at the Commissary in Windsor and probably living in the soldiers’ barracks at Windsor just a bit further down Bridge Street.

In 1804, James Brumby, by now a Sergeant in the New South Wales Corp, sailed with Colonel William Paterson to Port Dalrymple, now George Town, to set up a new settlement in northern Van Diemens Land (Tasmania) on the Tamar River. The French, under Freycinet, had sent a ship to Northern Tasmania in 1802 and the British authorities were worried that the French may settle in the northern section of the island. That was the reason for Paterson, with over 200 settlers and soldiers being sent to the Tamar River. Port Dalrymple had first been explored in 1798 by Bass and Flinders on the voyage to discover whether Tasmania was joined to the mainland of Australia.

According to the local Hawkesbury legend, when James left Freemans Reach to move to Port Dalrymple, he was unable to dispose of his horses so released them into the bush and they became

known as Brumby’s horses or later just as Brumbies.

This all seems unreasonable as the 1800 Settlers Muster List shows James Brumby as having no livestock at all on his farm.

In the Hawkesbury, then known as Mulgrave Place, there were only 31 horses. 13 of these horses were owned by Mark Flood who lived on what later became the Government Farm and is now Grech’s Lawn Turf on the Cornwallis, and another 13 were owned by ex-convict, John Stogdell, whose farm took up the whole Peninsula area in Windsor.

Thomas Abbott, an emancipated convict and a successful Hawkesbury merchant, Thomas Rickaby who lived between the end of Catherine Street and the Hawkesbury River in Windsor, and Benjamin Jones, whose grant was north of the current shopping centre in Pitt Town, all owned one horse each and Jonas Archer owned two. Jonas was a successful landowner and ex-convict living on the Windsor end of the Cornwallis.

The only possibility is that James Brumby was agisting John Stogdell’s horses for him as the Peninsula Farm was not big enough to run 13 horses. But this is only conjecture.

Horses in 1800 were only for the wealthy and if someone was leaving the area and offered his horses for sale he would have been knocked over in the rush. Certainly, if Brumby was agisting John Stogdell’s horses, Stogdell would have claimed them back. There is no way that expensive horses would have been left to wander in the bush.

It seems that the word brumby is much later in origin. Certainly, by 1894, the poet, Banjo Paterson, wrote the poem called the “Brumby’s Run” and in the introduction to the poem mentions that brumby is the aboriginal word for horse, though he does not state in which dialect or from which area. The first use of the word seems to have been used in the Melbourne magazine published after 1880 called “Australasia” describing bush horses in Queensland.

Nowadays brumbies are found running freely in parts of the Northern Territory, Queensland and in the alpine areas of the Snowy Mountains in NSW.

Soldier, James Brumby from the Hawkesbury, can be ruled out as the origin of the word ‘brumby’ and the word is now very much part of the Australian vocabulary.

Sources:

- 1800 Settlers Muster List
- Australian Dictionary of Biography, A W Campbell
- Hawkesbury Settlement Revealed, Jan Barkley-Jack
- Bulletin, 1894.

Records of the NSW Court of Claims

Cathy McHardy, October 2019

By the beginning of the 1830s land ownership in the colony of NSW had become rather haphazard and subject to argument and dispute. Many people had lived on blocks of land for many years but did not have a certificate of title to produce to prove ownership. Other people claimed to have been promised certain portions but were never legally granted the land. Some claimed to have been given or bequeathed land but did not have documents to substantiate their claim. At this time, title documents were not issued until the land was surveyed by the government surveyor and this often took many years to take place.

In 1833 a Court of Claims was established to hear cases where the title to the land had not been issued and make a judgement upon land subject to dispute. The act designated: IV Will No 9, 1833 provided for the appointment of three commissioners for two years.

Hearings commenced in April the following year and applicants were required to set out their claim on a particular parcel of land in the form of a memorial which provided supporting documentary evidence and statements from witnesses. Advertisements were placed in the *NSW Government Gazette* stating that a claim had been made which gave those who may oppose the application, the right to make an alternative case.

In the years that followed, further acts were passed to continue the process of investigation by the tribunal. The judgements of the Court of Claims had a direct impact on the ownership of land throughout NSW and certainly in the Hawkesbury District.

In the town of Richmond for example, many of the title documents for allotments in the town were issued after 1834 as many blocks were subject to the deliberations and decisions made by the Court of Claims.

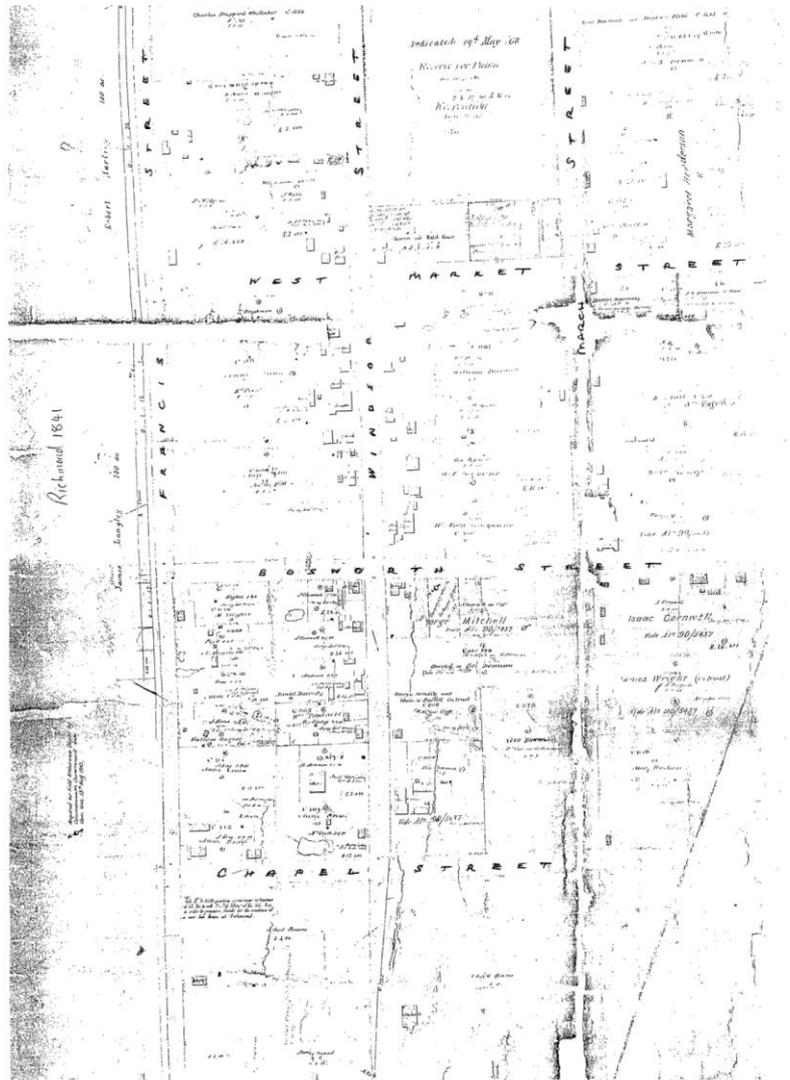
During this period John James Galloway surveyed the town of Richmond in 1841 and produced a plan which recorded in great detail each portion, the buildings constructed thereon and the names of owners and/or occupiers. This plan is part of the Surveyors' Field Books 1794-1860 held by State Archives & Records of NSW (www.records.nsw.gov.au). There is an online index which may be searched by the name of the surveyor and place.

State Archives & Records of NSW also holds a wealth of information relating to the case papers and final decisions made by the Court of Claims for several decades from the 1830s. These records are very useful when researching a particular portion of land in the Hawkesbury.

The records of the Colonial Secretary include the memorials submitted to the Court of Claims as well as documents created by the court such as Reports of Commissioners of Claims, registers of decisions made by the court and registers of notices which were published in the *NSW Government Gazette*.

Other records created by the Court of Claims include letters received, registers of cases, draft and final reports, and documents relating to the promising, granting and purchasing of land. Documents relating to the Court of Claims may also be found in the records of the Lands Department and the Surveyor General.

The records of the Court of Claims are an important source of information when researching the history of land usage and ownership in NSW and particularly in the Hawkesbury. ■



Plan of Richmond drawn in 1841 by surveyor John James Galloway – NSW State Archives & Records - Surveyors' Field Books 1794-1860 Item No: 509 | Previous System No: [2/8063.2] | Date: 1841-1841 | Place: Survey of Bargo River; Red Bank and Stonequarry Creek - County of Camden. Town of Windsor &c. Road to Richmond - County of Cumberland. Town of Richmond. INX-17-195.

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