

Deposited by T.E. Burns, executor of J.R. Skemp's estate, 1968 - 1974
 Access: Available for research. (Unpublished material was closed until after the death of T.E. Burns in 1983)

JOHN ROWLAND SKEMP

John Rowland Skemp (1900-1967) was the son of Rowland Skemp and Florence (nee Kearney). He graduated BSc in engineering at the University of Tasmania in 1924. He became a relief teacher for the education department and also served for a year as assistant to a surveyor while completing his degree. In 1924 he went to England to visit relatives. On return he helped his father on their farm, trying to control the plague of rabbits and playing cricket in his spare time. In 1939 he took up a post at the Launceston Museum visiting schools as a lecturer in natural history. In his later years he published works on Tasmanian history, reminiscences and natural history. His last publication (published in 1970 after his death) was *My Birds*.

Rowland Skemp (1863 - 1947), J.R. Skemp's father was born in Dawley, Shropshire, England, son of a Baptist minister, Thomas Skemp. The family later moved to Cheltenham where Thomas died. Rowland, who was artistic, became a calico print designer in Manchester but found the Manchester climate bad for his chest and so in 1883 he came to Tasmania, where his brother Sam (1862-1948) had settled the previous year. Sam was a friend of John Chester a portrait photographer and for a short time he assisted Chester's brother Frank an itinerant photographer working on the North West coast of Tasmania and then worked for Henry Rockcliffe at Sassafras. Sam bought 20 acres of land at Myrtle Bank in 1883 and the brothers settled there, later naming the property "Reediford Holm". J.R. Skemp describes the pioneering life of his father and uncle in his *Memories of Myrtle Bank, the bush farming experiences of Rowland and Samuel Skemp 1883-1948*, (Melbourne U.P. 1952.

On 28 February 1894 Rowland Skemp married Florence Kearney (d. 1934), daughter of Thomas Kearney of Richmond and teacher of the little Myrtle Bank school.

The Kearney family had come to Tasmania with the Norfolk Island settlers. William Kearney (1795-1870) acquired land in the midlands but later settled near Richmond at Laburnum Park. In 1848 one of his sons, Thomas, married Anne Elizabeth Lovell and another son, William, married Margaret Rachel Lovell, daughters of Esh Lovell who had settled nearby at Carrington. Thomas and Anne Kearney had nine children, George, Eva, William, John, twins Ada and Annie, Florence, Ernest, Albert (Ab.). Florence became a teacher, following the example of an older cousin, Samuel Lovell. She stayed at Richmond School and became a pupil teacher when she was fourteen serving for three years until in 1877 she was appointed to run a small infants school near Enfield. In 1886 she became the teacher of the Patersonia School, but later moved to the new school at Myrtle Bank, where she taught for much of the rest of her life, returning in 1901 after her marriage and continuing until 1930 and even after retirement often acted as adviser to the new teacher.

Rowland and Florence Skemp's first child, a girl, was still-born on 1 January 1895, but in 1896 they adopted Leslie, son of a relative. In 1900 their own son, John Rowland, was born in Launceston.

The papers include manuscripts of J.R. Skemp's publications and some unpublished works, some papers of Rowland and Florence Skemp, including letters to Florence's mother, Ann Kearney (nee Lovell), used by J.R. Skemp for his *Letters to Anne*. There are also papers of Rowland Skemp relating to his work for the local Council and local agricultural society, and Florence Skemp's papers relating to Myrtle Bank School, and some photographs of family and friends (many, however, unidentified).

ROWLAND AND FLORENCE SKEMP

(1863-1947). Son of Thomas Skemp. Married Florence Kearney 1894. Farmed with his brother, Samuel, at Myrtle Bank.

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Stories and poetry written by Rowland Skemp

Including some possibly written by Florence Skemp.

- (1) Stories, manuscript, including: (a) "The education of Jenny Fulton"; (b) "Mrs Jim, a bush tragedy"; (c) "Bush episode: little fat man"; (d - h) various stories, some incomplete, including "lives and loves of the bush, a simple drama of the forest, by a tiller of the soil"; (j) "Father Runal" an allegorical political story based on a quotation from Victor Hugo's *Hernani*, Act 4 sc. 2 "la pyramide enorme . . ." (full quotation written on back of last page).
(8 folders, 1 notebook)
- (2) Poems (9 folders)
Some written on backs of envelopes, posters, printed papers etc, many dating from the 1920s.. Also "Poems by A Pioneer, selected poems of Rowland Skemp (1863-1947), with a foreword by his son John Rowland Skemp", typescript. Also rough drafts of poetry and prose, possibly by Sam Skemp c 1890s.
(10 folders)
- (3) Poems written to Florence on her birthday (1 folder)

15

Music and songs.
(ms. 2 folders)

12

Music and notes of Samuel Skemp ND
"HMS Pinafore" by Gilert & Sullivan, transposed into tonic solfa by Samuel Skemp. Also loose papers of tonic solfa notes
(exercise book)

18

Sketches by Sam and Rowland Skemp c 1877
Pencil and watercolour sketches of landscape (Chedworth, UK), flowers and animals.
(1 folder)

PATERSONIA METHODIST CHURCH

7 Organ Fund and cemetery 1901

- (1) Organ Committee minute book Oct. - Dec. 1901
Including some accounts
- (2) Subscription list for organ fund 1901
- (3) Cemetery repair
Subscription list and plan of graveyard.

PATERSONIA WAR MEMORIAL

8

Subscription list and papers 1919 - 1922
Including order and account with J. Dunn for memorial
(folder)

MYRTLE BANK STATE SCHOOL

Florence Skemp was the teacher of Myrtle Bank School from 1901, when its foundation teacher, Violet Carins, was appointed to Longford School, until 1930.

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4

Myrtle Bank State School 1905 - 1930

Florence Skemp's cash book and miscellaneous papers:

- (1) Cash books of receipts and expenditure (2 vols) 1924 - 1930
- (2) School Sports - notebook ND
- (3) Miscellaneous papers 1905 - 1927

Receipts for miscellaneous items, toys, prizes etc, including some household items.

(1 folder)

10

W.A. Carins: school recitations and comic sketches 1901 - 1907

Recitations and comic dramatic scenes in notebook labelled: "Some of my dramatic efforts when state school teacher (and odds and ends) W.A. Carins 1901", including verse, a farce entitled "Miss McAllister's Bush School 1901", songs including "seven times table", news cuttings of school boy howlers etc, "Dotheboys Hall" sketch etc. alterations and additions made and some cuttings stuck over earlier ms text. Probably used for school concerts. [Note William Alexander Carins (1842-1924), a Quaker teacher made his home at Myrtle Bank]

(notebook)

MYRTLE BANK SOCIETIES

2

Myrtle Bank Agricultural Bureau - subscriptions June 1928 - July 1929

Boards of agriculture were local associations of farmers fostered by the State Agricultural Department. Members met to discuss farming problems or occasionally hear a lecture. Rowland Skemp was secretary and then Chairman, J.R. Skemp, secretary.

(Receipt book)

9

St. Patrick's River Show Society 1915 - 1940

The Show was an offshoot of the local Agricultural Bureau branch. Secretary's papers including:

- (1) Show Secretary's Correspondence 1939 - 1940
- (2) Minute Books of Show Committee (2 vols) 1931 - 1940
- (3) Entries & schedules - misc. papers 1939 - 1940
- (4) Entry books (16 vols) 1915
- (5) Cash books, including list of show members (3 vols) 1930, 1933 - 1940
- (6) Lilydale Farmers & Fruit Growers Assocn. Autumn Show programme 1939-40
- (7) Memo book 1924 - 1925
- (8) Programme 1940

3

Myrtle Bank Hall and Social Club 1897 - 1951

Minutes of committee, accounts. The hall was built on Skemp land.

- (1) Minutes of meetings of Hall Committee 1942 - 1949?
- (2) Accounts of receipts & expenditure (2 notebooks) 1897-1922, 1926-1949
- (3) Launceston Savings Bank pass book 1921 - 1951
- (4) Miscellaneous papers 1908 - 1912

Including: balance sheet 1902, social club meeting minutes and list of members 1908, agreement for Rowland Skemp to lease to the Social Club half acre of land on the road leading from the Scottsdale Road to St. Patrick's River Road for 99 years on condition no alcoholic liquor was sold but retaining right of pasture, receipt for building materials, account of subscription for fair, list of

subscriptions for present for Mrs McArthur on leaving the district. Also note by T.E. Burns about the hall being moved to Myrtle Park and reconstructed into a grandstand for the cricket field.

- 5 Myrtle Bank Cricket Club 1927 - 1928
- (1) Cricket Score Book, with names of players 1927 -1928
 - (2) Cricket Score Book 1950
(J.R.Skemp - draft introduction to first "letter to Anne" on flyleaf)
- (2 vols)
- 6 Myrtle Bank Sports Ground [1948]
Notebook, noting minutes of a meeting and receipts and expenses. Enclosed: receipt for installation of swing, slide and "giant stride".
(pocket notebook)
- 11 Myrtle Bank miscellaneous c 1920
Bill due from R. Skemp for clearing fir tree and blackberries and carting stones for metal (1920); St. Leonard's Council byelaws relating to dairies and cow keepers.
(2 papers)

MISCELLANEOUS

- 16 A. W. Waterworth ND
Newspaper cutting of poem "Tasmania" by Alfred Waterworth, with note by T.E. Burns that Alfred Waterworth former Head of Glen Dhu State School, Launceston, frequently put words to popular tunes to provide "school songs" such as that of Launceston Technical High School.
- 17 W.W. Skemp - newspaper cutting ND [late 19th Cent.]
Newspaper cutting of report of lecture given by W.W. Skemp [?brother] of Worsley at the Moorside Liberal Club [UK] on "the political history of nonconformity".

JOHN ROWLAND SKEMP

John Rowland Skemp (1900 - 1967), son of Rowland and Florence Skemp, collected papers of his parents and published memoirs and studies of the pioneers of Myrtle Bank, etc. Copies of most of his publications are held in the Royal Society of Tasmania Library and some in the University Library.

J. R. SKEMP'S WRITINGS

S12/

1 Drafts of & notes for publications:

- (1) *Memories of Myrtle Bank* (published 1952)
The bush farming experiences of Rowland and Samuel Skemp in north eastern Tasmania 1883-1948 (published 1952 by Melbourne University Press), originally entitled "my people pioneers": typescript; corrected typescript; extra chapter; note; biography of Rowland and Florence Skemp, for chapters 10 - 21
- (2) *Letters to Anne* (published 1956)
Typescript. Also letter about sales Apr. 1957.

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- (3) *Tasmania Yesterday and Today* (published 1958)
ms. draft, typescript with publishers' criticisms, galley proofs
- (4) *Van Diemen's Land Correspondents* (published 1961)
Letters from R.C. Gunn and some from R.W. Lawrence, Jorgen Jorgensen, Sir John Franklin to Sir William Jackson Hooker 1827 - 1849, edited with notes and commentary by T.E. Burns and J.R. Skemp: draft typescript, corrected ms. Also photograph of Wainwright's portrait of R.C. Gunn from Kew.
Note the original letters are preserved in the Herbarium at Kew Botanic Gardens, London, and were the basis of the *Flora Tasmaniae* by W.J. Hooker's son Joseph Dalton Hooker, published in 1860. Microfilm and photocopies were used for the transcriptions and presented to the Queen Victoria Museum, Launceston, by T.E. Burns (and see below for microfilm of part of correspondence). Extracts were also included of part of a diary of R.W. Lawrence.
- (5) Murray - Gunn correspondence 1860 - 1876
"A section of the [J.M.] Curtis Papers 'H. Thomas A. Murray Correspondence' as edited by J.R. Skemp with great difficulty in the last months of his life" and typed by T.E. Burns, being a copy of some of the correspondence between R.C. Gunn and H. Thomas Murray Warden of Mersey Marine Board 1868-73 and J. and W. Gibson. [Location of original letters not stated]
(typescript)
- (6) "The Tasmanian Naturalist" (unpublished)
"A popular guide to the rocks, trees, plants, birds, mammals, reptiles, fish, insects, shellfish and other animals."
(Typescript and ms.)
- (7) *My Birds* (published, Devonport 1970)
Including drafts and cuttings from *The Australian Highway* of "They nest in my garden" etc.
(ms.)
- (8) "North West Coast" ND
"A history from its discovery to the present day", including the V.D.L. Co., Devonport, timber and coal. Parts were apparently published in an Education Department Curriculum Dept. periodical.
(Typescript and ms.)
- (9) "Bush Days"
Miscellaneous rough notes on Fenton, herbarium etc.
(folder)
- (10) *History of Deloraine* (published Launceston 1964)
Typescript, ms, notes and correspondence.
(folder)

120

R.C. Gunn to W.J. Hooker letters - microfilm 1830 - 1845
Microfilm copy of letters to W.J. Hooker from R.C. Gunn and some from R.W. Lawrence (c 1831-1833) about Tasmanian flora, as used for *Van Diemen's Land Correspondents*. Note the letters are not in chronological order on the microfilm. The film ends with a copy of a V.D.L. Co. map of North-West Tasmania.
(microfilm)

PHOTOGRAPHS AND SKETCHES

- S12/
19 J.R. Skemp's rough pencil sketches
a) Lovell family c 1950 for "Letters to Anne"
b) Girls (modern)
- 20 Rowland Skemp by Robert Campbell 1945
Print (poor quality) from a damaged block of drawing of R.S. by Robert Campbell used as frontispiece to *Memories of Myrtle Bank*.
- 21 Tasmanian grass tree. Water colour on dark card, unsigned.
- 22-52 Photographs
Annotations by T.E. Burns
- 22 Lady, dark dress, feather boa. c 1900 - 1910
Studio cabinet photo, Nicholas, Launceston
- 23 Little girl, fur trimmed coat, c 1880-1900
carte de visite photo by J. Joyner, Cheltenham [UK]
- 24 Lady, seated, white frilled dress, elaborate flowered hat
photo, oval, by Sargeant, Launceston
- 25 Little boy, head and shoulders
carte de visite photo, F.B. Slater, Salford [UK]
- 26 Girl, head and shoulders
cabinet photo, C. Nicholas, Launceston
- 27 Lady, dark dressed, dress ruched pattern, c 1900
c de v photo, R. Bass, Manchester [UK]
- 28 Wedding couple c 1925 - 1935
photo Roland Bros., Launceston
- 29 Kathleen in girl guide uniform, Prestatyn [Wales] April 1924
- 30 Soldier, Tas. Rhodesia Regiment c 1902
Small tinsplate photo, "Sticky Back Photo Co.", note on uniform by T.E. Burns
- 31 Nurse (? St. John Ambulance) c 1914 - 1918
photo Burrows, Launceston.
- 32 Baby girl c 1920 - 1930
Vandyke Studios, Launceston
- 33 Lieut. A.H. Thorpe of Scottsdale for Bass election [state] c 1917-18
Served Boer War and "present war"
- 34 Little girl c 1910-20
Spurling photo
- 35 Bertha, head and shoulders
Swiss Studios, Melbourne, mounted photo
- 36 Irene & Alice, holding teddy bears
"to Mrs Skemp from your loving 'scolars'", photo Geo. J. Jones, Collingwood
- 37 Lady, seated c 1910
studio portrait, Alexander, Sydney
- 38 Family, 3 boys, husband and wife in garden c 1900-1915
- 39 Lady, head and shoulders, dress lace and frills, c 1900-1910
photo Crawford, Hobart
- 40 Boy or girl, fancy dress c 1905-1915
"From Edna Cliffe, Melbourne". Errol Studios, Melbourne
- 41 Lady, head and shoulders, dress lace trimmed c 1910-1920
photo Burrows, Launceston, oval, mounted
- 42 Lady, head and shoulders.
"Your old mate" American Studios, Hobart
- 43 Boy, tweed shorts suit and cap c 1930
studio portrait, Talma, Melbourne

ANNE ELIZABETH KEARNEY (1827-1898 nee Lovell, wife of Thomas Kearney)

- S12/
53-68 William Esh Lovell to his sister Anne 31 Mar 1851 - 28 Oct. 1868
Letters from Helperthorpe, Yorkshire, England, mainly about family affairs and his uncle and aunt's farm, his wife, Lois [nee Wilson], and son Willy (1862), seeds, vexed with his father over uncle's affairs, birth of 2nd son [John] 1862, reference to Anne's husband's drinking problem - sends her money, death of his wife (1866), move to Scarborough, aunt's death of cancer (1868) leaving small bequests, move to Weaverthorpe.
(16 letters, each a single folded paper)
- 69-87 Margaret (nee Lovell) widow of William Kearney 1856, 1861 - 1872
Letters to sister Anne from Richmond and from New Norfolk and Jerusalem as patient of Dr. G. F. Huston of New Norfolk Hospital: family, children, marriage of Mary Ann to Willy Stonehouse (1864), Fanny, death of father, thanks for parcels, religious thoughts, comments on reading a biography of Henry Horlock, references to Bridget and Mary Malone (probably nurses or attendants).
(19 letters)
- 88 Joseph Lovell to sister Anne 6 Jan 1861
Chewton, Vic: affairs of deceased brother John, gold diggings.
(1 doc)
- 89 Sophia wife of Joseph Lovell to sister-in-law Anne 16 Aug. 1869
Chewton, Vic: John's property, reef Joseph working did not pay, family.
(1 doc)
- 90 Charles Lovell, son of Joseph and Sophia Lovell to aunt Anne 28 May 1868
Maldon, Vic: picturesque place, working in shoe trade with Mr Denny.
(1 doc)
- 91 Fanny Kearney to her aunt Anne 3 June ND
Letter: New Town, George, children.
(1 doc)
- 92-96 Mary Ann Stonehouse (nee Kearney) to Anne Kearney 1857 - c 1870
Letters: family, child "little Birdie"
(5 letters)
- 97-103 Estate of brother, John Lovell deceased 1863 - 1867
Letters relating to brother's property near Sale, Victoria, bequeathed to his sisters, but previously sold, from: George Stewart, Belfast (claim against John Lovell's estate 1863); William Montgomery; Alex & Pardoe, Gippsland; Edwin Desailly, Sale; A.A. Lovell; James Murdoch, Sale.
(8 letters)
- 104-110 Miscellaneous letters received 1860 - 1868
Letters from friends and miscellaneous correspondents, including: G. Johnston, Hobart: Mr Johnston's mother left inheritance - much needed, family (1860, 1862), William Ward: requesting payment of debt, saw her brother, her late brother's will (1863); C. Griffiths, New Norfolk: bad health - taking Dugong oil for lungs; Secretary Post Office: apology for delayed letter (1865), G.F. Huston of New Norfolk Hospital for the Insane: he would be willing to try Miss Kearney as an attendant but felt it would be unsuitable as she would be subject to scenes and language which would cause her mother anxiety (30 Oct. 1868); Ann Kearney (? wife of Alfred Kearney) to "dear Friend": thanks for sympathy on loss, with Alfred's and own kindest love, ND.
(7 letters)

- S12/
111 Promise to pay £160 to Anne Kearney ND
Signed Esh Lovell
(slip of paper)

THOMAS KEARNEY

- 112 Philip and Emma Sherwin to Thomas Kearney 7 May 1867
Letter from Sherwood, Bothwell, refusing to lend of £20 to Kearney.
(1 doc)

MARGARET RACHEL (nee Lovell) and WILLIAM KEARNEY

- S12/
113 Marriage certificate 30 Mar 1848
William Kearney of Rosebank, Richmond, to Margaret Rachel Lovell of
Carrington, Richmond.
(1 paper, torn)
- 114 Phrenology reading of Margaret Kearney by A. ^{S.} Hamilton Jan. 1855
(1 paper)

MISCELLANEOUS

- 115 Poetry c 1860 -1888
Poem by Thomas G. Kearney 1863; newspaper cutting of poem by
F.W.[Florence] Kearney on J. Hogan killed in Oatlands hurdle race 1888; unsigned
ms poetry, probably by Anne Kearney or Florence and other Kearneys; prayers and
religious poetry probably by Margaret Kearney (cf her letters S12/69-86); printed
poem: "Views from Ben Lomond by James Morgan".
(18 papers)

LOVELL FAMILY

See also S12/53-68, 96 - 102

- 116 Letter from William Hogarth to Mr Lovell 15 Jan. 1854
Royal Hotel: date of Bachelors' Ball.
(1 doc)
- 117 William Esh Lovell 28 Mar 1866
Letter from S. Peters: sympathy for Mr Lovell and his aunt and "little ones" on
the death of his wife, Lois, invitation for Willy to visit.
(1 doc)
- 118 Sketch of Weaverthorpe Church, Yorkshire, England 1868
Pencil sketch, probably by William Lovell.
(1 paper)
- 119 Lovells of Helperthorpe, Yorkshire, England
Letter from Mrs Cyril Pinkney, (Lois daughter of Willy Lovell, granddaughter of
William Esh Lovell) of Malton, E. Yorks, 4 Nov. 1958, enclosing photographs:

- i) Manor House, Helperthorpe, 1866
Man, child and 2 women in front
- ii) Esh Lovell as boy March 1891

Son of William Lovell and his second wife. He became a teacher at
Birmingham Technical College. Carte de visite photograph by Cambrian Photo
Studio, Ellesmere.

(iii) 3rd photo but unsure of subject

S12/22-52 cont

- 44 Sports meeting, St Patricks River Hall. c 1920
runners, photo by J.R. Skemp (faded). Note by T.E. Burns
- 45 Gladys Prior aged 3 c 1925-35
Addressed to Mrs Skemp. Allan Studio, Collingwood, Melbourne
- 46 Wedding couple c 1930
Vandyke Studio, Launceston
- 47 Young ladies, summer dresses c 1900-1915
Sargeant Studios, Launceston
- 48 "Laurie", tweed suit. 1914
"to Auntie Flo"
- 49 Baby and little boy (lace collar)
Spurling photo (cf 34)
- 50 "Little Bobbie, age 2 years and 2 months"
standing on chair. Crawford, Hobart
- 51 Lady, head and shoulders c 1910-20
Whitelaws photo
- 52 Lady and two infants
From M.K. Viney. Vandyke Studios, Launceston

LOVELL - KEARNEY FAMILY

These letters and papers of Anne Kearney (1827-1898) are some of the original documents used by J. R. Skemp for his publication *Letters to Anne* (Melbourne 1956). Anne's father, Esh Lovell (1796-1865), was the younger son of a tenant farmer of Helpersthorpe, Yorkshire, UK. He arrived in Tasmania in 1823 with his wife Anne (nee Ousten, d. 1834) and children, Samuel and a baby William who was born on the voyage but died at the age of four. Lovell established himself as a merchant in Hobart and his wife set up as a milliner. He also acted as a Wesleyan missionary. In 1828 he was appointed Superintendent of the Female House of Correction in Hobart with his wife as matron but he resigned in 1831 after an inquiry into his management. He then conducted a school for young gentlemen, "Prospect House Academy". Four other children were born in Tasmania, John (d.1858), Joseph W., Anne Elizabeth (1827-1898), Margaret Rachel (1831-1898) and William Esh (1833-1920) but their mother, Anne Lovell, died in 1834. In 1835 Esh Lovell married Sophia Rebecca Adkins and had another 11 children, including Adkins Esh, Walter, Sophia, Emma. The first family were, however, unhappy with their step-mother.

In 1842 Esh Lovell bought land near Richmond including Carrington House, formerly the property of Governor Arthur.

Carrington was close to the property of William Kearney (d.1870), Laburnum Park. Esh Lovell's daughter, Anne Elizabeth, married in 1848 Thomas (d.1890) the eldest son of William Kearney. Her sister Margaret Rachel married another son William, but William was murdered in 1853 and a few years later Margaret developed religious mania and was placed in the care of Dr. Huston of the New Norfolk Hospital for the Insane and her children were brought up by their Kearney grandparents.

One of the Lovell sons, William Esh, went to live with his uncle and aunt at Helpersthorpe, Yorkshire, England and after his uncle's death ran the farm for his aunt. He married his cousin, Lois Wilson (d.1866), and had two sons, Willy and John. He later remarried and had another son Esh