

JOURNAL OF WALTER ROBSON'S VOYAGE TO AUSTRALIA
October 1867 to March 1870

Notes on the Text

Walter Robson (1842-1929) was a British Quaker who acted as secretary-companion to his cousin, Joseph James Neave (1835-1913), when the latter made a lengthy journey to Australia in the years 1867 to 1871.

Neave had been dispatched by the London Yearly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers) to report on the condition of the fledgling Quaker community in Australasia, and to attempt to reconcile differences among members of the Sydney Quaker Meeting.

For an overview of the work of Neave and Robson in Australia, see: William Nicolle Oats, *A Question of Survival: Quakers in Australia in the Nineteenth Century* (St Lucia: University of Queensland Press, 1985), pp. 272-275.

The following transcript was made in 1963 from the original journals, in two volumes, which were then in the possession of a descendant of Walter Robson. A microfilm copy of the manuscript is held in the Friends' House Library in London (MIC 206), along with a copy of the transcript (L 092.3 ROB).

Robson's journal complements the journal simultaneously written by Joseph James Neave. Neave's journal is preserved in the Mitchell Library, Sydney, in the records of the Society of Friends in New South Wales (MLMSS 3842, box 17).

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