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WILLIAM GUNN

William Gunn (1800-1868), police magistrate and Superintendent of Prisoners' Barracks, was born in Newry, Ireland, son of Lieut. William Gunn and Margaret (Wilson). After service in the British army, he came to Tasmania in 1822 and received a grant of land in the Sorell district, called by Gunn "Bourbon" after his regiment. He served as Superintendent of Prisoners' Barracks in Hobart from 1826 - 1850 and Launceston 1850 - 1859 and remained Police Magistrate in Launceston until his death in 1868. On moving to Launceston he acquired Glen Dhu as his main residence. In 1829 William Gunn married at Sorell Frances Hannah (Fanny) Arndell. They had three sons, including William, Ronald Thomas and James Arndell, and 6 daughters, including Margaret who married in 1852 Frank Allison (see A2) and Frances (Fanny jr.) and Isabel (Issie). Gunn was an elder of St Andrews Church, Hobart, and later of Chalmers Church, Launceston.

In 1830 William's brother, Ronald Campbell Gunn (1808-1881) settled in Tasmania.

William Gunn's wife's sister, Elizabeth Emily (Arndell), was married to another Sorell land holder, James Gordon of Forcett, who she married in 1814. James Gordon (1779-1842), born at Forcett, Yorkshire, England, son of John Gordon steward of the Stanwyck estate, had emigrated to Sydney as a merchant in 1806. In 1814 he was appointed Naval Officer in Hobart and granted land at Sorell and the following year he resigned his appointment to develop his property. In 1828 he succeeded his nephew, John Lakeland, as Superintendent of Convicts and in 1829 he was appointed Police Magistrate at Launceston but his delay in making his financial returns led to suspicion of fraud. In 1835 he retired to look after his property and the children of John Lakeland who were his wards. He was involved in a debt dispute with William Gunn, who after Gordon's death brought a law suit against his widow.

John Lakeland (d.1828) arrived in Tasmania in 1814 or 1815. He served as Superintendent of Convicts until his death in 1828 and was granted land at Pittwater. He married Mary Louisa Arndell (d.1835), sister of Emily Elizabeth Arndell who was married to Lakeland's uncle, James Gordon. They had 2 sons, James Gordon and John Thomas, and 2 daughters, Emily Elizabeth and Louisa. John Lakeland appointed his uncle James Gordon and his brother-in-law William Gunn as executors and trustees of his will and guardian of his children. His widow, Mary, married Thomas H. White, the farm manager, in 1831 against the wishes of the trustees owing to some scandalous rumours about White's intentions and moral character.

WILLIAM GUNN

G5/

1

Notice of arrival 28 Dec. 1822

Copy of notice in *Hobart Town Gazette* of the arrival of the "Shelton" (Capt. Dixon), listing passengers including Lieut. William Gunn and family)
(ms copy)

2

Temple Pearson to Gunn 1 July 1828

Douglas Park: friendly letter, servant due a ticket of leave so needs replacement, Gunn's bull.
(1 doc)

G5/

3

Robert Campbell Gunn to brother William 6 Oct. 1828

From Barbados: want of cash for fare home in spite of economies, appointment as clerk to Royal Engineers Antigua uncertain, thinking of moving to V.D.L., Gunn's father and father-in-law recently died in Antigua.

(1 doc)

4

William Gunn 5 Apr. ND

Note about constables (partly illegible)
(doc. damaged, fragile)

5

Land purchase 1 Apr. 1840

Letter about land purchase. Signature illegible.
(1 doc)

6

Sarah Threlkeld (nee Arndell wife of L.E. Threlkeld, missionary) 24 May 1840

From Ebenezer, Lake Macquarie to brother [in law] and sister Gunn: L.E.T. taking service, children busy with books, family.

(1 doc)

8

Rev. Robert Auld, Orkney, 8 Apr. 1845

Inquiring about Joseph Welsh and a bill of exchange he sent to Gunn in 1843 for Welsh.

(transcript only, original too fragile and powdery to handle)

9

W. Wood to W. Gunn 1 July 1845

Nankridge: employment for Charles, Mr Swan bought horses and bullocks for ploughing, cannot offer present big rent of £650 for 2000 acres.

(fragile doc.)

10

Robert Simpson 1846

Inquiry from Glasgow solicitors to Gunn about a Robert Simpson who was convicted of theft in Glasgow in 1823 and transported, convicted again in 1840, but not heard of since, was next of kin to an uncle recently deceased.

(1 doc)

11-17

Gunn's claim against Gordon estate 1844 - 1849

Papers relating to William Gunn's suit for debt against James Gordon, including: letter from Gunn to Mrs Gordon: sent 3 bags of sugar, Kelly's account, stock losses (22 Oct. 1844); letter from W. Gunn to sister in law Mrs Gordon: sending sugar, Kelly's case, been given notice to leave by Robertson etc (29 Oct. 1844); accounts of interest owed by James Gordon and Elizabeth Gordon 1841-1848; summons to E. Gordon for debt of £6000 to William Gunn (8 Sept. 1847, & Sept. 1849); letter from W. Gunn to Thomas Young about the case and Mrs Gordon (8 Nov. 1848, transcript only - original too decayed to handle) statement by William Gunn to Mrs Elizabeth Gordon of Forcett, Pittwater, widow of James Gordon, reciting judgement in suit brought by William Gunn requiring Mrs E. Gordon as executor to pay with account attached.

(7 docs)

19

Account Ledger - William Gunn c 1835 - 1868

Little information recorded. Enclosed: bills for brass candlesticks and snuffers, washing for Mrs Gunn (1845).

(quarto vol. leather bound)

20

Bank Book of Bank of Australasia - William Gunn 1857 - 1859

(small booklet)

G5/
21

Executors' accounts - estate of William Gunn decd. 1868 - 1877

Papers of the trustees and executors under the will of William Gunn (R.C. Gunn and Thompson and Ritchie), including authority to lease Glen Dhu to Mrs Gunn for one year, accounts for fencing and repairs at Glen Dhu, insurance, solicitors' fees, rent, rent for Bourbon, rent for Lakeland, share of income for Mrs Gunn, Mrs Allison, William Gunn jr., Isabella Simmons, E.E. Burrows, James A. Gunn and division of estate between Louisa Gunn, Elizabeth E. Gunn, William Gunn, Mrs Allison and James Gunn.
(5 docs.)

RONALD CAMPBELL GUNN

22

St Patrick's River Property 1867

Rough draft of a conveyance of property at St Patrick's River from Jane Franklin, widow of Sir John Franklin RN.decd, to Ronald Campbell Gunn of Launceston.
(1 paper)

GUNN FAMILY - MISCELLANEOUS CORRESPONDENCE

23

Ronald T. Gunn to sister Louisa 22 June 1869

Unwilling to contribute to Glen Dhu as he had his own rooms in the store in town.
(1 doc)

24

Frank Allison to cousin Dr John J. Gunn, Glasgow 13 Apr. 1874

Shooting, athletics, cricket - Launceston beaten by all England Eleven.
(1 doc)

25

Frank [?Allison] to Harry 13 June 1887

From Woodlands: the little mare.
(1 doc)

26

Draft of letter to "Winston" 31 Jan. 1888

Unsigned draft: little parlour window broken open and things "put out".
(1 paper)

27

To "Aunt" 28 Apr. 1889

Incomplete letter headed "Mardin Erleigh: sorry about her worries but unable to help - living hand to mouth since store burned down, offered lodging, expecting any day - "nurse here now", Tom works hard, children well.
(1 folded paper)

28

George to sister Amy ND [late 19th cent]

From Legerwood, Ringarooma: weather, walks, Willie, family.
(1 doc)

29

Poem: "Count not the hours" 1851

"For Miss Gunn"
(ms. folded letter paper)

JAMES GORDON

- G5/
30 D. Gordon and Joseph Gordon to brother, London 8 Dec. 1805
Received letter from Jersey - reflected on dangers encountered, relatives - Aunt Jane, Brother Fortune's family, Fanny, Peggy Lakeland "a fine blooming girl", horses, family and servants, no hams available but could get legs of mutton and a few pieces of beef.
(1 doc)
- 31 James Gordon arbitrator in civil case, Sydney 1810
Order of Civil Court of N.S.W. for dispute between William Stewart and Robert Campbell to be referred to the arbitration of James Gordon (11 Oct. 1810); accounts of "estimated proportion arising to Capn Stewart on the sale of seal skins, oil" etc.; valuation of sloop "George", brig Venus, etc.
(3 papers)
- 32 T.W. Birch, Hobart, to James Gordon at Sydney 8 Feb. 1811
Stock well, some in calf, bull, a passenger in the "Cambell Macquarie" an inmate of Birch's house had seen them all and could inform J.G.'s brother in law, skins, land.
(1 paper - fragile)
- 33 Appointment as Police Magistrate 28 July 1830
Memorandum of confirmation of Gordon's appointment as Police Magistrate.
(1 ltr)
- 34-37 William Gunn to James Gordon 1830 - 1834
Gunn busy with men from last 2 prison ships, Lakeland and family well, young Fanny (30 Oct. 1830); land for sale by discharged soldier, Fanny (10 Dec. 1833); shipping (24 June 1834); assigned servant, Fanny (ND).
(4 ltrs)
- 38-66 Trustees of Lakeland - Mrs Lakeland's remarriage Nov. 1830 - June 1831
Mrs Mary Lakeland, widow of John Lakeland, and her marriage to Thomas H. White (employed as manager of their Forcett farm 1830-31): papers of James Gordon and William Gunn, executors and trustees under the will of John Lakeland (d. 17 March 1829), relating to the proposed marriage which was opposed by Gordon and by Mrs Lakeland's sister, Elizabeth Gordon, because of doubts as to White's intentions and unsavoury rumours about his morals. Papers include: correspondence between Mary Lakeland, James Gordon, William Gunn and Thomas White; copy of statement by William Gunn and M. Lakeland that Mrs L. and Mr White had formed a mutual attachment but before she proceeded further it was her intention that inquiry would be made into Mr W's character and the property devised by her late husband would be settled so that Mr W. could have no control over it (7 Jan. 1831, transcript only, original document too fragile to handle); counsel's opinion on Lakeland's will (19 Feb. 1831); draft letter complaining that White had left the farm in working hours and ridden a young horse too far (30 Jan. 1831); T. White's resignation from J.G.'s service on the Lakeland's Pittwater farm, Studley Park (14 Feb. 1831); information laid before a J.P. that White had absented himself from his employment for 4 days (8 Feb. 1831, transcript only, original too decayed to handle); summons for T.W. for absconding from J.G.'s service (17 Feb. 1831); letter from W. Gunn to Gordon: Mrs L. had wanted some papers from her box but he refused them, Fanny had told him that "the ring is purchased, an 8lb wedding cake ordered and the ceremony is to be performed on Thursday the 25th instant" (15 Feb. 1831, transcript only, original too decayed to handle); letters from Joseph Steele (5 Jan. 1831), anonymous writer suggesting that T.W. had a wife living in Scotland (ND), J. Laing (26 Jan. 1831); list of household furniture at Studley Park, Pittwater, left by Mrs White on 4 Feb. signed T. White (6 June 1831); letter from T.W. to J.G. on the health of child Louisa Lakeland - recovered from fever (13 June 1831).
(29 docs.)

- G5/
67-68 Forcett property 1834
Request from the Survey Office to John Halls to measure 100 acres in Forcett, subject to a reserve to the Government of 100 acres at the Ferry. Also covering letter from W. Gunn to Gordon - the last clause spoils all (transcript only)
(2 docs - 1 fragile, 1 transcript only - original too fragile to handle)
- 69 Case concerning servants 14 Oct. 1835
Draft letter to Lieut-Governor concerning Gordon's servants: Charles Hardiman, shepherd, was expecting a ticket of leave but had been suspected of stealing hams, John McQuaide, shoemaker and another former servant, William Mitchell, who had been swindled - a case of extreme hardship.
(1 doc)
- 70 Gordon to nephew John [?John Thomas Lakeland] 14 Oct. 1835
Box of apples, jams etc sent, reference to his studies, stock prices, crops, bees, prosecution of the shepherd and the groom for their infamous conduct, respects to Mr Manning and love to James.
(transcript only, original too damaged and powdery to handle)
- MISCELLANEOUS
- 71 William Pickin c 1825
Memorandum about William Pickin and queries about evidence relating to his offence.
(1 paper - damaged)
- 72-73 George A. Lloyd 1840
Letter and invoice from George A. Lloyd, Sydney: sending 97 bags of maize to sell on his account, proceeds to be invested in potatoes or wheat (8 Aug. 1840); bill of lading for 80 bags of potatoes to Sydney per Eamont for G. A. Lloyd (8 Sept. 1840)
(2 docs., transcript only, originals too decayed to handle)
- 74 Thomas & Sarah Cherry to son James Cherry 1843
Not heard from him. Addressed to George Thompson, River Plenty, with postscript asking if James Cherry "be no more" Mr Thompson requested to inform his parents.
(1 letter)
- 75 Government House Levee & Ball cancelled 19 May 1855
Notice that in consequence of a domestic affliction in the family of the Governor [Sir Henry E. Fox Young] the Levee and Ball for the 24th would not take place.
(printed paper)
- 76 Poem "Forget me not" ND [early 19th cent]

(ms on small piece of paper)
- 77 Military hospital & convalescent camp, Cairo May 1915
Photographs published by the *Commonwealth Gazette*.
(1 printed paper)

Note: 12 documents, too decayed and powdery to handle or read, have been withdrawn and stored ~~in the vault~~ *separately on shelf.*

(7) Letter from L.E. Threlkeld from Sydney to brother in law W. Gunn 7 Dept. 1846 (inviting W.G. to visit, Christian Union etc.); (8) Auld letter; (15) Gunn to Young 1848; (18) statement of Gunn's claim for debt against James and Elizabeth Gordon 12 Sept. 1849; (31 (4)) expenses and disbursements for sloop George and brig Venus 1805; (41) Mrs Lakeland's statement 1831; (53) information against White 8 Feb. 1831; (56) Gunn to Gordon; (68) W. Gunn to Gordon - Forcett property survey 1834; (70) Gordon to nephew John 14 Oct. 1835; (72) George A. Lloyd letter and invoice - bags of maize 8 Aug. 1840; (73) bill of lading - potatoes sent to G.A. Lloyd Sept. 1840.

Transcripts of all documents which could be read have been made and included in place of the originals.

PSK Sept. 1992