James Lawrence Stapleton papers

Accession number 33744

Author / Creator

Stapleton, J. L. (James Lawrence), collector

Stapleton, Euthene Lebreton, 1909-1983, collector

Publisher [between 1850 and 1988?].

Abstract This collection contains material about the personal and professional lives of librarian James Stapleton, his wife Euthene Lebreton Stapleton (nee Grosser) and and other associated material.

Scope and content The collection contains: personal papers associated with James Stapleton and his wife Euthene Stapleton (nee Grosser): a small number of professional papers and publications associated with James Stapleton; a photograph album mainly of holiday photos taken during a visit to Brisbane by Doris Grosser, Euthene Stapleton's sister; a photograph album documenting activities of James Stapleton and the Public Library of Queensland in the 1950s; loose photographs relating to the personal life of Euthene Stapleton and the professional and personal lives of James Stapleton; a photograph album mainly about James Lorenzo Stapleton, grandfather of James Stapleton and stationmaster of Barrow Creek Telegraph Station; a scrapbook of newspaper clippings about libraries in South Australia and Queensland during James Stapleton's career; and personal diaries belonging to Euthene Stapleton.

Description 3 envelopes of papers, 3 photograph albums and 1 envelope of loose photographs, 1 scrapbook and 3 diaries.

Administrative / Biographical history James Lawrence Stapleton (1904-1979) was born at Mount Gambier, South Australia, elder son of Percival de Soligny Stapleton, telegraph-operator, and his wife Louisa, née Lyford. Following school, James joined the Public Library of South Australia where he worked as a cadet until 1927 and then as a junior library assistant. In 1935, James married stenographer Euthene Lebreton Grosser (1909-1983) and from 1938 managed the Public Library of South Australia country lending service. In 1947, James was appointed State librarian of the Public Library of Queensland. James travelled Queensland to promote libraries. During his tenure, he established the structure for the State Library and oversaw considerable expansion of services with a country Lending Service approved by the Library Board in 1947, followed by the establishment of the archives section in 1959. Librarianship training classes were introduced during this period as well. By his retirement in 1970, the library had a staff of 120 and all but six of Queensland's 83 local authorities responsible for libraries had library services which offered free lending services. Following his retirement Stapleton served on the Oxley Memorial

Library Advisory Committee 1970-1972.(Information taken from: Australian Dictionary of Biography, viewed 20 November, 2023).

Access restrictions Unrestricted access.

Copyright status Multiple copyright statuses.

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Notes In 1902, the Public Library of Queensland was opened in the redeveloped Queensland Museum building at 159 William Street, Brisbane CBD (often referred to as the Old State Library building). In 1959, the William Street library building was extended with the addition of Centennial Hall. In 1966, the building was remodelled with an additional floor and extended mezzanine. Outstations were established in George Street, Ann Street, William Street and finally Costin Street. In 1971, Public Library of Queensland became State Library of Queensland. In 1988, the State Library of Queensland moved to the South Bank Cultural Centre. (Information provided by: Anna Raunik)

Preferred citation

33744, James Lawrence Stapleton papers, John Oxley Library, State Library of Queensland

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Series 1: Papers (1917-1983?)

Series number 1

Series title Papers

Date 1917-1983?

Scope and content
This series contains personal and professional papers as well as publications associated with James (Jim) Lawrence Stapleton and his wife Euthene Lebreton Stapleton (nee Grosser).

Description

Description   3 envelopes of material

Locate   OMBOX Box 24067;   OMOSBOX Box 11020 O/S

Access restrictions Unrestricted access.

Copyright status Multiple copyright statuses

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Items in this series:

Personal papers (1917-1983?)

Unit ID 33744/1

Date 1917-1983?

Scope and content
This item contains personal papers associated with James Stapleton and his wife Euthene Lebreton Stapleton (nee Grosser):

- 'Qualifying Certificate' awarded to James Stapleton from the Education Department of South Australia, 1917.
- copy of birth details of James Stapleton, 1925.
- extract from the birth certificate of Euthene Grosser, 1931.
- marriage certificate of Euthene Stapleton, 1935.
- 5 telegrams conveying messages of congratulations on the marriage of James Stapleton to Euthene Grosser, 1935.
- Certificate of Discharge' from the Volunteer Defense Corps, Australian Defense Corps, for S 67474 Sergeant James Lawrence Stapleton, 1946. Stapleton served from 1942-1945.
- copy of a letter from Jas. (James) L. Stapleton to Mr. David Rowbotham thanking him for a copy of the poem "Morse Code at Barrow Creek", 1968. The poem refers to the death of James Stapleton's grandfather.
- copy of the will of James Stapleton, 1971.
- will of Euthene Stapleton, 1971.
- legal document granting Peter James Stapleton power of attorney over his mother Euthene Stapleton, 1977.
- death certificate of Euthene Stapleton, 1983.
- letter mentioning Jim, Euthene and Peter, author unknown.

This material was collected by James and Euthene Stapleton.

Author / Creator

Stapleton, J. L. (James Lawrence)

Stapleton, Euthene, 1909-1983

Description

Description 1 envelope of papers

Locate OMOSBOX Box 11020 O/S

Professional papers (1968-1970)

Unit ID 33744/2

Date 1968-1970

Scope and content

This item contains professional papers associated with James Stapleton:

- letter to James Stapleton about the activities of the archivist at the Public Library of Queensland, 1968.
- letter to James Stapleton from Queensland Premier Joh Bjelke-Petersen on his retirement from the Public Library of Queensland, 1970.

This material was collected by James Stapleton.

Author / Creator

Stapleton, J. L. (James Lawrence)

Description

Description 2 letters (in an envelope)

Locate OMBOX Box 24067

Publications (1921-1954)

Unit ID 33744/3

Date 1921-1954

Scope and content

This item contains publications associated with James Stapleton:

- select issues of the Staff Gazette of the Public Library, Museum and Art Gallery of South Australia, 1921-1925.
- leaflet titled 'Bifaced stone implements from South-Eastern South Australia' by P. de S. Stapleton, from Records of the South Australian Museum, Vol. VIII, No. 2, June 30th, 1945.
- extract from 'Notes from the Brisbane Public Library' - No.45. 4QR. 23rd April. 1954. 10 p.m. by Jas. (James) L. Stapleton.

Percy de S. Stapleton (Percy Stapleton) was the father of State Librarian James L. Stapleton. This material was collected by James Stapleton.

Author / Creator
Stapleton, J. L. (James Lawrence)

Description

Description 1 envelope of material

Locate OMBOX Box 24067

Series 2: Photographs and photograph albums (1850-1988?)

Series number 2

Series title Photographs and photograph albums

Date 1850-1988?

Scope and content
This series contains loose photographs and photograph albums:

- photograph album documenting a visit by Euthene Stapleton's sister, Doris Grosser, to Brisbane, 1947-1949?
- photograph album documenting activities at the Public Library of Queensland during James Stapleton's time with library in the 1950s.

loose photographs relating to the personal lives of both James and Euthene Stapleton and to the professional live of James Stapleton.

- photograph album primarily about James Stapleton's grandfather, but also his father.

Description

Description   3 photograph albums,   1 envelope of loose photographs

Locate   OMOSBOX Boxes 11020, 24220, 24301 O/S

Access

Access restrictions Unrestricted access.

Copyright status Multiple copyright statuses

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Items in this series:

Miss Grosser photograph album (1947-1949?)

Unit ID 33744/4

Date 1947-1949?

Scope and content
This item contains a photograph album containing black and white photographs (and some postcards) of:

- Brisbane buildings including Brisbane Public Hospital, Brisbane City Hall, an elevated view of Roma Street Railway Station, Brisbane Dental Hospital and the Canberra Hotel.
- Brisbane bridges including the Storey Bridge, Grey Street Bridge and Victoria Bridge.
- Brisbane CBD war memorials.
- Yeronga Park Infants' School (kindergarten), the kindergarten Peter Stapleton attended (son of James and Euthene Stapleton).
- the Glasshouse Mountains.
- a Maleny street view.
- Caboolture homes.

- butter factories at Maleny and Caboolture.
- the Brisbane end of the Hornibrook Highway.
- rainforest, Curtis Falls, hotel and zoo at Tamborine.
- aeroplanes.
- a newspaper clipping showing people picnicking and resting in Queen's Park, in front of the Public Library of Queensland, 159 William Street, Brisbane CBD.
- views and kiosk at the Mt Coot-tha lookout.
- Peter exploring Kalinga Park.
- scenery and family on a trip to the coast south of Brisbane including Burleigh Heads, Elephant Rock (Currumbin) and Point Danger.
- photos of Brisbane city and other areas during a boat cruise to Moreton Bay.
- Aunt Doris and Peter at the Brisbane Show.

The photograph album has a black cover and most of the photographs are labelled. The photograph album contains a small amount of other material. The photograph album belonged to Miss Doris Grosser, sister of Euthene Stapleton (nee Grosser). Photographs were taken during a trip Miss Grosser made to visit her sister between 1947-1949. Euthene and James Stapleton moved to Brisbane in 1947.

Author / Creator
Grosser, Doris

Description

Description   1 photograph album

Locate   OMOSBOX Box 24220 O/S

'J.L. Stapleton State Librarian' photograph album (1950s)

Unit ID 33744/5

Date 1950s

Scope and content
This item contains a photograph album containing black and white photographs relating to James Stapleton's time with the Public Library of Queensland in the 1950s. The Public Library of Queensland during this time was situated at 159 William Street, Brisbane CBD (now referred to as the Old State Library building). Photographs document:

- exterior views of the Public Library of Queensland, 159 William Street.

- portraits of James Stapleton.
- interior views of reading rooms.
- library staff at work.
- collection items and storage.

There is also a photograph of a sailing boat build on plans and specifications provided by the library's Lending Service. Some of the photographs were taken at other locations. James Stapleton travelled around Queensland to effort to promote libraries (Information taken from: Australian Dictionary of Biography, viewed 22 November 2023). The album has a green cover and a black spine. It includes loose photographs. It is not known who compiled the album. The creator of many of the photographs is unknown, some were created by commercial photographers.

Description

Description 1 photograph album

Locate OMOSBOX Box 24301 O/S

Loose photographs (1915-1988?)

Unit ID 33744/6

Date 1915-1988?

Scope and content
This item contains loose photographs:

- various colour and black and white portraits of James Stapleton aged 21, 42, 50 and older.
- black and white class group photograph of Euthene Stapleton and other classmates at primary school.
- black and white portraits of Euthene Stapleton's parents and Aunts Flo and Elsie.
- black and white portraits of Euthene Stapleton as a young lady.
- black and white photographs of Eugene and James Stapleton on their motorbikes.
- holiday snaps of James Stapleton and another in the snow, 1963. These photographs are accompanied by a letter.
- black and white portraits of James Stapleton inspecting books in the Public Library of South Australia, 1932.
- colour transparencies and slides of Victorian artist Lindsay Edward's mural on the

outside of the extension to the Old State Library Building, 159 William Street, Brisbane CBD, from 1958-1959.

- black and white photograph of a crane in front of the Old State Library Building, 159 William Street, Brisbane CBD, 1965.
- black and white photograph of the reading room of the John Oxley Memorial Library, George Street, Brisbane CBD, 1965.
- black and white photographs of James Stapleton at functions, including the Library Association Conference, Adelaide, in 1957 and on his retirement in 1970.

The photographs were collected by James and Euthene Stapleton. The creator of many of the photographs is unknown, some were taken by professional photographers.

Author / Creator

Stapleton, J. L. (James Lawrence)

Stapleton, Euthene Lebreton, 1909-1983

Description

Description 1 envelope of photographs

Locate OMOSBOX Box 11020 O/S

James Lorenzo Stapleton (grandfather) photograph album (1850-1979?)

Unit ID 33744/7

Date 1850-1979?

Scope and content

This item contains a photograph album of photographs, photographic postcards and newspaper clippings primarily about James Stapleton's grandfather, but also his father:

- colour and black and white photographs, colour slides and colour negatives of a short tombstone marking the burial location of James Lorenzo Stapleton, stationmaster of Barrow Creek Telegraph Station, who died from a spear attack by Aboriginal Australians in 1874. The tombstone is located less than a quarter of a mile from Barrow Creek Station.
- colour and black and white photographs of a taller memorial for James Lorenzo Stapleton located in West Terrace Cemetery, South Australia.
- black and white photographic postcards of Barrow Creek Telegraph Station.

reproductions of original photographic portraits of James Lorenzo Stapleton, before 1859 and in 1864.

- colour photograph of Jim (James) Stapleton standing by the grave of his grandfather, James Lorenzo Stapleton.
- newspaper clippings that describe Percy Stapleton's efforts growing tobacco at Mount Gambier. Percy was the telegraph operator of Mount Gambier.
- newspaper clipping that documents the story of the spear attack on James Lorenzo Stapleton, shows the West Terrace Cemetery memorial for James Lorenzo Stapleton and describes Percy Stapleton's interests which include Aboriginal Australian implements.
- newspaper clipping that describes wireless telegraphy.

Some of the photographs were taken during a trip State Librarian James L. Stapleton took to Barrow Creek Telegraph Station where his grandfather James Lorenzo Stapleton was stationmaster. Percy Stapleton (Percy de S. Stapleton) was the father of State Librarian James L. Stapleton. This album has been rehoused.

Author / Creator
Stapleton, J. L. (James Lawrence)

Description

Description   1 photograph album

Locate   OMOSBOX Box 11020 O/S

Series 3: Scrapbook (1943-1970)

Series number 3

Series title Scrapbook

Date 1943-1970

Scope and content
This series contains a scrapbook about libraries in South Australia and Queensland during James Stapleton's career.

Description

Description 1 scrapbook

Locate   OMOSBOX Box 24220 O/S

Access

Access restrictions Unrestricted access.

Items in this series:

Scrapbook (1943-1970)

Unit ID 33744/8

Date 1943-1970

Scope and content
This item contains newspaper clippings about libraries in South Australia and Queensland during James Stapleton's career, with some articles featuring James Stapleton. The scrapbook is in a large green album with a black spine, it includes loose clippings. The compiler of the scrapbook is unknown.

Description

Description 1 scrapbook

Locate   OMOSBOX Box 24220 O/S

Access

Copyright status In copyright

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Series 4: Diaries (1930-1943)

Series number 4

Series title Diaries

Date 1930-1943

Scope and content
This series contains 3 diaries written by Euthene Stapleton (nee Grosser).

Author / Creator
Stapleton, Euthene Lebreton, 1909-1983

Description

Description 3 diaries

Locate OMBOX Box 24067

Access

Access restrictions Unrestricted access.

Copyright status In copyright

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Items in this series:

Diary (1930-1932)

Unit ID 33744/9

Date 1930-1932

Scope and content
This item contains a diary written by Euthene Stapleton (nee Grosser). It includes weekend and holiday activities. Newspaper clippings on a variety of subjects are pasted on the inside covers. The diary is in a black exercise book.

Description

Description 1 diary

Diary (1932-1935)

Unit ID 33744/10

Date 1932-1935

Scope and content
This item contains a diary written by Euthene Stapleton (nee Grosser) up to the week before she married James (Jim) Stapleton. It includes weekend and holiday activities. It contains loose newspaper clippings and a clipping pasted to the back inside cover. The diary is in a black exercise book.

Description

Description 1 diary

Diary (1943)

Unit ID 33744/11

Date 1943

Scope and content
This item contains a diary written by Euthene Stapleton (nee Grosser) mostly about their son Peter's infancy. The diary is in a hardcover book with red binding, the cover reads 'No. 2 Diary for Govt. Departments. South Australia'. Peter Stapleton was born on the 26 June 1942.

Description

Description 1 diary