

Reverend Robert Hugh Wilson papers

Accession number 8074

Date 1908-1939

Author / Creator

Wilson, Robert Hugh, 1884-1960

Abstract The papers of Reverend Robert Hugh Wilson includes correspondence, diaries and photograph albums.

Scope and content This collection includes diaries or journals covering the years 1908 to 1926; correspondence between the Rev. Robert Wilson and the Presbyterian Church; 2 notebooks recording Indigenous language; one photograph album of Port George IV Mission and Kunmunya 1912-1917; one photograph album of Mornington Island Mission 1919-1939. Both albums have been digitised and copies of each album are available for public consultation at the State Library of Queensland.

Description 8 diaries; 2 notebooks; 2 photograph albums; approximately 150 letters

Additional format Digital copies available for selected items for onsite users only.

Administrative / Biographical history Reverend Robert Hugh Wilson was born in Ararat, Victoria in 1884. His father died when he was seven and he was sent to an orphanage in Ballarat. He worked as a farm hand and went to night school to further his education. He became a Home Missionary in the Presbyterian Church of Victoria and served at Woomelang in north-west Victoria. Robert's main desire was to do missionary work and in 1908 he was sent to Aurukun in north Queensland. Just prior to going to Aurukun he married Frances Green whom he had met at an open air gospel meeting. Three years later the Wilsons went to Western Australia to do missionary work in Port George Sound. They stayed until 1919 when they were sent to Mornington Island. In 1940 Robert was forced to resign due to health issues but continued to have an active role in the Church until a serious car accident in 1956. He died in 1960.

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Notes Users are advised that this Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander material may contain culturally sensitive imagery and descriptions which may not normally be used in certain public or

community contexts. Annotation and terminology which reflects the creator's attitude or that of the era in which the item was created may be considered inappropriate today. This material may also contain images, voices or names of deceased persons.

Preferred citation

8074, Reverend Robert Hugh Wilson Papers, John Oxley Library, State Library of Queensland.

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Series 1: Diaries (1908-1926)

Series number 1

Series title Diaries

Date 1908-1926

Scope and content

Diaries in the form of journals kept by the Reverend Robert Hugh Wilson during his time as superintendant on three Presbyterian Aboriginal Missions: Aurukun, western Cape York Peninsula, north Queensland; Port George IV Mission later known as Kunmunya, at Walcott Inlet in the west Kimberleys, Western Australia; and Mornington Island Mission also known as Kunhanhaa, in the Gulf of Carpentaria, far north Queensland.

- **Item 1. 21 November 1908 to 31 December 1912, Aurukun Mission**
- **Item 2. 1 January 1913 to January 1915, Kunmunya Mission**
- **Item 3. 9 July 1915 to 30 October 1917, Kunmunya Mission**
- **Item 4. 9 December 1918 to 20 September 1922, Mornington Island Mission**
- **Item 5. 1 January 1920 to 29 June 1921, Mornington Island Mission**
- **Item 6. 1 July 1921 to 31 August 1922, Mornington Island Mission**
- **Item 7. 23 September 1922 to April 1925, Mornington Island Mission**
- **Item 8. 1 May 1925 to 10 October 1926, Mornington Island Mission**

Author / Creator

Wilson, Robert Hugh, 1884-1960

Description

Description 8 diaries

Additional format Digital copies available

System of arrangement Chronological

Locate OMOSBOX Box 16240 O/S

Access

Access restrictions Some restrictions apply.

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Items in this series:

Diary 1 (21 November 1908 - 31 December 1912)

Unit ID 8074/1

Date 21 November 1908 - 31 December 1912

Scope and content

This journal begins with the entry: Friday 21st November 1908 in which Wilson comments: *"proved to be the last day of my ministry in Woomelang"* and *"about to engage in aggressive foreign Mission Work"*. Robert Wilson begins this account of his time as a young missionary with the Presbyterian Church at Aurukun Aboriginal Mission, located on the traditional lands of the Wik and Wik Way people, in western Cape York, north Queensland. He describes travelling by train to Melbourne, where he was met by his new bride Francis (nee Green), then by the steamer 'SS Cooma' to Sydney and Brisbane, from Brisbane on the steamer 'SS Warrego' to Thursday Island, touching at Townsville and Cooktown enroute. They then sailed for Mapoon and Aurukun where they began their mission work. The entries pause on the 22nd January 1909 and the resume 26 December 1909 with the note *"I find such a sameness in the different days that have passed, that I gave up noting the doings of each day, and after a lapse of time ... recommence my diary ... but not daily, as formerly, but every week"*. Reverend Richter was in charge of the mission during this time and Wilson writes of his strict dealings with the Aboriginal people, inflicting floggings for perceived misbehaviour. Wilson records several incidents that occurred during the year at the Aboriginal camp, one which which resulted in the death of 'Mammouse'. In October they took 7 weeks leave to Thursday Island; and on 25 December he again records an incident at the camp, where spears were thrown and

a woman beaten for her trouble. The latter part of the diary records their journey to Broome, Western Australia, where they were to take up a position at the Port George IV Mission (later known as Kunmunya), located on the traditional lands of the Worrorra people. Included in the rear of the journal are lists and summaries of wires [telegrams] sent by Wilson to various recipients from 1912-1914.

Author / Creator

Wilson, Robert Hugh, 1884-1960

Description

Description 1 diary

Additional format Digital copy available

Access

Access restrictions Some restrictions apply.

Copyright status In copyright

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View the items

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Other

Biographical history

Aurukun was established as a Presbyterian Mission in 1904 in remote western Cape York in Far North Queensland. The name 'Aurukun' came from the local language name for the large lagoon at the back of the mission. Aboriginal people were relocated from large surrounding areas to the mission over several decades. The traditional owners of the area are the Wik and Way people, the area has five recognised clan groups: the Apalech, Winchanam, Wanam, Chara and Puutch.

Diary 2 (1913-1915)

Unit ID 8074/2

Date 1913-1915

Scope and content

Having arrived at the Kunmunya Mission, Port George IV, Western Australia, Wilson records their daily routine, how many Aboriginal people visited the mission and what work was undertaken such as sawing and carrying timber, and clearing mangroves. The local people were encouraged into the mission to work, with the promise of food, which was prepared for them. Some took advantage of the situation and made off with the tools they were working with, others returned with fish and other supplies. Their days were filled with building accommodation, keeping the boats in good order, and coping with the numerous snakes, native cats and extreme heat. The mission was supplied by a steamer from Broome, the 'Park' which brought mail and essential food stores. In March 1914 their son Andrew was born. In December 1914 they packed their belongings and left the mission, Wilson recorded in detail their voyage back to Broome for six months leave, with their 10 month old boy.

Author / Creator

Wilson, Robert Hugh, 1884-1960

Description

Description 1 diary

Additional format Digital copy available

Access

Access restrictions Some restrictions apply.

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Other

Biographical history

Kunmunya Mission, Port George IV, was located between the Glenelg River and the Prince Regent River on the north west coast of Western Australia, about 480 km north of Broome. Situated in a narrow inlet of the sea with a supply of fresh water. The shortage of suitable land for agriculture saw the mission move 6 miles inland to Kunmunya. The mission remained in contact with Broome via their lugger 'Watt Leggatt'.

Diary 3 (9 July 1915 - 30 October 1917)

Unit ID 8074/3

Date 9 July 1915 - 30 October 1917

Scope and content

The journal begins after the Wilson's return to Kunmunya Mission, Port George IV from leave, to find their wooden house infested with white ants and in need of repair and the stores similarly over-run. Increasingly Aboriginal people were put to use as unpaid labourers, securing and felling timber to repair buildings and fences. Wilson describes evening games of football played by the young men, classes being held to teach them to read and write English. He also records a 'cobba cobba' the local word for corroboree or ceremonial dance being held in August 1915. Wilson conducted services on a Sunday after which he would attend to the sick who presented to them.

On the evening of 21 September 1915, Wilson recorded that two men from the schooner 'Redoubt' came ashore looking to 'recruit' local people for what means he did not indicate. Despite him warning them off the ship left the next day having aboard "Levy and five women, Vera, Olive, Nannie, Judy and Mr Black, Edward's mother".

Wilson also describes the 'packing up' of native spears and artefacts to be shipped, but does not detail their destination.

At the end of 1917 the family went on leave and did not return to Kunmunya but transferred to Mornington Island where the previous superintendent Robert Hall had been killed. Robert Wilson had been a fellow student with Hall in missionary college in Adelaide.

One of the last pages includes a pressing of seaweed.

Author / Creator

Wilson, Robert Hugh, 1884-1960

Description

Description 1 diary

Additional format Digital copies available

Access

Access restrictions Some restrictions apply.

Copyright status In copyright

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Other

Biographical history

Kunmunya Mission, Port George IV, was located between the Glenelg River and the Prince Regent River on the north west coast of Western Australia, about 480 km north of Broome. Situated in a narrow inlet of the sea with a supply of fresh water. The shortage of suitable land for agriculture saw the mission move 6 miles inland to Kunmunya. The mission remained in contact with Broome via their lugger 'Watt Leggatt'.

Diary 4 (9 December 1918 - 20 September 1922)

Unit ID 8074/4

Date 9 December 1918 - 20 September 1922

Scope and content

The journal begins with a stay in Brisbane early December 1918 [previous page missing] as the Wilson's prepare to travel to Mornington Island where he had been appointed superintendent of the Presbyterian Church Mission, taking with them their two young children Andrew born in March 1914 and Bessie in August 1916. Wilson replaced Reverend Hall who had been killed by a Lardil man named Kidikur (also known as 'Bad Peter' or 'Burketown Peter') in 1917. Kidikur was later sentenced to life imprisonment on St Helena Island, Moreton

Bay. Having left Brisbane on the steamer SS Changsha 28 October they stayed for three days at Thursday Island, before landing at Burketown where they loaded supplies for Mornington Island. On their arrival, they set to work cleaning and clearing the existing Mission buildings and grounds and quickly enlisted the help of the local people to assist with the labour. This work which included a significant expansion of the mission and remodelling of the landscape, to form extensive fruit and vegetable gardens, severely altered the natural ecology. Over time rigid social practices were imposed on the Lardil who were the traditional owners and residents of Mornington Island, as well as their neighbours the Kaiadilt people, from the South Wellesley Islands. Wilson instituted policies:

... to achieve effective conversion of the Aborigines to a Christian lifestyle was to intervene at an early stage in the education of the Aboriginal children. They were segregated under a dormitory system, and an attempt was made to 'raise their intelligence' above that of their parents ...

... Economic enterprises such as gardening and animal husbandry were introduced. These were considered traits of 'more advanced' races, and were utilized as educational 'methods' in the school ...

Author / Creator

Wilson, Robert Hugh, 1884-1960

Description

Description 1 diary

Additional format Digital copy available

Access

Access restrictions Some restrictions apply.

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Diary 5 (1 January 1920 - 29 June 1921)

Unit ID 8074/5

Date 1 January 1920 - 29 June 1921

Scope and content

This journal contains entries dated 1 January 1920 and continues to June 1921 and are repeated narratives already recorded in the previous journal Item 4. relating to the Mornington Island Mission.

Author / Creator

Wilson, Robert Hugh, 1884-1960

Description

Description 1 diary

Additional format Digital copy available

Access

Access restrictions Some restrictions apply.

Copyright status In copyright

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Diary 6 (1 July 1921 - 31 August 1922)

Unit ID 8074/6

Date 1 July 1921 - 31 August 1922

Scope and content

Note inside front cover reads 1st July 1921-31 August 1922 [copy of big diary] Entries in this

journal continue with the rigid routine of the Mornington Island Mission, school lessons, labouring, services on Sundays. Robert Wilson and his wife Frances were the only white people on Mornington Island. On 1 August Wilson describes taking the school children on a voyage to a nearby Island, but they encountered a strong head-wind and fierce sea. The person manning the tiller was washed overboard, and had to be rescued and they turned around without reaching their destination. The entry for 22 December 1921 illustrates some of the rigid practices he enforced, it reads as: *"In defiance of orders not to do so the people under cover of darkness took a canoe out into prohibited waters. I went after them & put an end to the dugout."* Often at the end of each month Wilson recorded the number of births and deaths, rainfall and a count of livestock. Wilson also makes mention of the ship 'Morning Star' making regular trips to Burketown; the skipper was a South Sea Islander, Alec, and the all-Lardil crew included Kangarumgully, Goodman and Jimmy Dugong. The 'Star' was a reasonably successful beche-de-mer vessel, the sale of its catch supplemented the Missions funds. Wilson also established a small industry supplying sandalwood, dugong oil and turtle shell. 25 April 1922 Wilson records the arrival of 6 Aboriginal children, 5 girls and one boy who had been sent over to the Island from Burketown by the Police. In August 1922 one of the men 'Bob' fell after being bucked from a horse, and died the following day.

Author / Creator

Wilson, Robert Hugh, 1884-1960

Description

Description 1 diary

Additional format Digital copy available

Access

Access restrictions Some restrictions apply.

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View the items

View the item

Other

Biographical history

Further information regarding the removal of Aboriginal people to the mission on Mornington Island can be gained from the reports retained by the Queensland State Archives, and extracts by Paul Mackett can be viewed at: Centre for Indigenous Family History Studies,

<http://cifhs.com>

Diary 7 (23 September 1922 - April 1925)

Unit ID 8074/7

Date 23 September 1922 - April 1925

Scope and content

Note inside front cover reads *"First part of this book is evidently the record of the relieving missionary Mr Dyer"*. The entries are brief and in different hand to Robert Wilsons. In 1922/23 Wilson and his family took leave from Mornington Island, travel to Melbourne, where he was ordained as a Presbyterian minister. They then travelled by motor vehicle to Brisbane where he gave a presentation at the Presbyterian Assembly, continuing their return journey overland to the Gulf. In his presentation he stated that there were about 250 Aboriginal people on Mornington Island, and a number on nearby Bentinck Island with who he had little contact.

From July 1923 the entries are once again written by Wilson, recording baptisms, services and much labouring by the children. Wilson laid baits for the dingos who were attracted to the mission goat herd. The entries are very matter-of-fact, detailing or reporting on the daily activities of those in the Mission, especially the children who were put to work moving sand, carrying water, clearing vegetation, stacking timber and many other manual duties. 12 September 1923 Wilson reports the news of several people outside the Mission had died of influenza.

27 September Messrs Kirk & Radcliffe [clergymen?] arrived aboard the "J.S. Ward" and inspected the school, giving the children a half-holiday.

27 October underlined in red pencil is the comment *"there were several fights in the camp today. One was very serious, one woman's leg being horribly smashed (Jennie) Whilst Billy had his right leg fractured. Others received minor injuries. The trouble was over the elopement of Fanny with Adam. Frank punished his mother by spearing her in the back."*

Author / Creator

Wilson, Robert Hugh, 1884-1960

Description

Description 1 diary

Additional format Digital copy available

Access

Access restrictions Some restrictions apply.

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Diary 8 (1 May 1925 - 10 October 1926)

Unit ID 8074/8

Date 1 May 1925 - 10 October 1926

Scope and content

Entries in this journal continue from May 1925 to October 1926, with Wilson recording the usual routine he imposed on the Mornington Island Mission. Much work is done on producing goods for trade, such as dugong oil, sandalwood and beche-de-mer. The children of the Mission are put to work clearing firebreaks, carrying sand and tending to produce that had been planted on nearby Denham Island. 1 June 1925 Wilson is alerted to the distress of a ship 'Maura' approaching the island which had broken down, which he was able to bring in on the tide and repair the damaged vessel's engine. Aboard were a Mr McKenzie and Mr Barker. Much work was carried out on maintaining the 'Morning Star' ensuring its seaworthiness to bring in much needed supplies and ferry the seriously ill to Burketown on the mainland. As was the case when a Lily Warren and her young baby were taken to hospital where she was declared 'to be insane'. The Wilsons assumed care of the baby at that time. 8 May 1926 the

Wilson was joined by the newly wed Mr & Mrs C D Sydney to assist the with work on the mission while Wilson and his family again took leave. They were later joined by Arthur Cribb. Before returning Wilson gave a lecture at the annual Presbyterian Assembly in Brisbane.

Author / Creator

Wilson, Robert Hugh, 1884-1960

Description

Description 1 diary

Additional format Digital copy available

Access

Access restrictions Some restrictions apply.

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View the items

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(8 digital)

Series 2: Notebooks (1912-1939)

Series number 2

Series title Notebooks

Date 1912-1939

Scope and content

Notebooks compiled by the Reverend Robert Wilson during his time a superintendant of

Aboriginal missions, recording Indigenous language.

Author / Creator

Wilson, Robert Hugh, 1884-1960

Description

Description 2 notebooks

Locate OMOSBOX Box 16240 O/S

Access

Access restrictions Some restrictions apply.

Copyright status In copyright

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Items in this series:

Notebook (undated)

Unit ID 8074/9

Date undated

Scope and content

Notebook in which is recorded in pencil lists of Aboriginal and / or Torres Strait Islander words and their meanings as understood or interpreted by Reverend Robert Wilson. The cover is missing.

Author / Creator

Wilson, Robert Hugh, 1884-1960

Description

Description 1 notebook (35 pages)

Notebook (undated)

Unit ID 8074/10

Date undated

Scope and content

Bound notebook, in which is recorded: a manuscript titled "An essay on the principal of cooperation in agriculture" the author is unknown. Also contained in this volume are lists of Aboriginal and / or Torres Strait Islander words and their meanings. The vocabulary lists have been recorded in several categories including: Adjective numerals; Pronominal adjectives; and Inflection of nouns;

Author / Creator

Wilson, Robert Hugh, 1884-1960

Description

Description 1 notebook (61 pages; 14 pages)

Series 3: Correspondence (1912-1913)

Series number 3

Series title Correspondence

Date 1912-1913

Scope and content

Correspondence received by Robert Wilson primarily from people associated with the Presbyterian Church during his time as a missionary in Western Australia. The earliest letters in this series date from 1912 when Wilson was appointed to assist at an Aboriginal Mission Station, in north Western Australia, located on the traditional lands of the Worora people. First located at Walcott Inlet in the west Kimberley's, due to the lack of freshwater it was relocated to a site near Port George IV. The collection includes correspondence from:

- William Turton who was the mission representative for the Western Australia Committee and a great supporter of Wilson's efforts
- William McGuire of East Fremantle, whose two sons and another man perished after an apparent attack by local tribesmen in June 1913
- Agnes Annie Rennie, of Adelaide, widow of Edward Henry Rennie (1852-1927) an Australian scientist and a president of the Royal Society of South Australia. Agnes was

keen to receive more Aboriginal artefacts 'native curios' and photographs of the mission and its people

[Items 11-34]

Author / Creator

Turton, William Frederick, 1857-1922

Watt Leggatt, Thomas, 1859-1944 ;

McGuire, William ;

Rennie, Agnes Alison, 1853-1938

Description

Description 24 letters

System of arrangement Chronological

Locate OMBOX Box 16243

Access

Access restrictions Unrestricted access.

Copyright status Multiple copyright statuses

Copyright status Turton: Out of copyright; Watt Leggatt: Out of copyright; Rennie: Out of copyright; McGuire: Undetermined

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Other

Notes

A detailed item list is available

Series 4: Correspondence (1914-1915)

Series number 4

Series title Correspondence

Date 1914-1915

Scope and content

Correspondence received by Robert Wilson primarily from people associated with the Presbyterian Church during his time as a missionary in Western Australia. The earliest letters in this series date from 1914 when Wilson was Superintendent of Port George IV Mission, in north Western Australia, located on the traditional lands of the Worora people. The collection includes correspondence from:

- William Turton who was the mission representative for the Western Australia Committee
- William McGuire of East Fremantle whose two sons and another man perished after an apparent attack by local tribesmen in June 1913
- Agnes Annie Rennie, of Adelaide, widow of Edward Henry Rennie (1852-1927) an Australian scientist and a president of the Royal Society of South Australia
- Thomas Watt Leggatt, Secretary of the Board of Missions (Presbyterian Church of Australia)
- Francis William (Frank) Rolland, later Sir Francis who assisted Reverend John Flynn to launch the Australian Inland Mission; reported on the breakdown of Presbyterian activity in Broome in 1912; and became a chaplain with the AIF in 1915 where he was posted to Egypt, France and England; later returning to Australia to become principle of Geelong College from 1920-1945
- Alexander Stewart, Convenor, General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of Australia

[Items 35-61]

Author / Creator

Turton, William Frederick, 1857-1922

Watt Leggatt, Thomas, 1859-1944 ;

McGuire, William ;

Rennie, Agnes Alison, 1853-1938 ;

Rolland, Francis William, 1878-1965 ;

Stewart, Alexander

Description

Description 27 letters

Locate OMBOX Box 16243

Access

Access restrictions Unrestricted access

Copyright status Multiple copyright statuses

Copyright status Turton: Out of copyright; Watt Leggatt: Out of copyright; Rennie: Out of copyright; McGuire: Undetermined; Rolland: In copyright until 2035 Stewart: Undetermined

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Other

Notes

A detailed item list is available

Series 5: Correspondence (1916-1917)

Series number 5

Series title Correspondence

Date 1916-1917

Scope and content

Correspondence received by Robert Wilson primarily from people associated with the Presbyterian Church during his time as a missionary in Western Australia. The earliest letters in this series date from 1916 when Wilson was Superintendent of Port George IV Mission, in north Western Australia, located on the traditional lands of the Worora people. The collection includes correspondence from:

- William Turton who was the mission representative for the Western Australia Committee
- Thomas Watt Leggatt, Secretary of the Board of Missions (Presbyterian Church of Australia)
- Francis William (Frank) Rolland, later Sir Francis who assisted Reverend John Flynn to launch the Australian Inland Mission; had reported on the breakdown of Presbyterian activity in Broome in 1912 and became a chaplain with the AIF in 1915 where he was posted to Egypt, France and England, returning to Australia to become principle of Geelong College from 1920-1945
- Reverend John Mathew, Coburg Presbyterian Church and friend of Robert Wilson
- Nicholas Hey, Superintendent Mapoon Aboriginal Mission also known as the Batavia River Presbyterian Mission
- James Robert Beattie Love, former Superintendent of Port George Mission, at this time serving with the 14th Light Horse Regiment in the Middle East

[Items 62-81]

Author / Creator

Turton, William Frederick, 1857-1922

Watt Leggatt, Thomas, 1859-1944 ;

Rolland, Francis William, 1878-1965 ;

Mathew, John, 1849-1929 ;

Hey, Johann Nikolaus, 1862-1951 ;

Love, James Robert Beattie, 1889-1947

Description

Description 27 letters

System of arrangement Chronological

Locate OMBOX Box 16243

Access

Access restrictions Unrestricted access

Copyright status Multiple copyright statuses

Copyright status Turton: Out of copyright; Watt Leggatt: Out of copyright; Rolland: In copyright until 2035; Mathew: Out of copyright; Love: Out of copyright 2017; Hey: Out of copyright 2021

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Other**Notes**

A detailed item list is available

Series 6: Correspondence (1918-1920)

Series number 6

Series title Correspondence

Date 1918-1920

Scope and content

Correspondence received by Robert Wilson primarily from people associated with the Presbyterian Church during his time as Superintendent of Mornington Island Aboriginal Mission, in north Queensland, located on the traditional lands of the Lardil people. Wilson replaced Reverend Hall who had been killed by a Lardil man named Kidikur in 1917. The collection includes correspondence from:

- Thomas Watt Leggatt, Secretary of the Board of Missions (PCA)
- George Kinloch Kirke, St Stephens Church, Ipswich, Mission representative, Queensland
- James Robert Beattie Love, Superintendant of Mapoon Mission, Cape York Peninsula
- William Watt, Secretary, Board of Missions (PCA)
- Sergeant Arthur James Scanlan, Burketown Police

[Items 82-101]

Author / Creator

Kirke, George Kinloch, 1874-1947

Watt Leggatt, Thomas, 1859-1944 ;

Love, James Robert Beattie, 1889-1947 ;

Scanlan, Arthur James, 1877-1939 ;

Description

Description 20 letters

System of arrangement Chronological

Locate OMBOX Box 16243

Access

Access restrictions Unrestricted access

Copyright status Multiple copyright statuses

Copyright status Kirke: Out of copyright 2017; Love: Out of copyright 2017; Watt Leggat: Out of copyright; Scanlan: Out of copyright 2009

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Other

Notes

A detailed item list is available

Series 7: Correspondence (1926-1928)

Series number 7

Series title Correspondence

Date 1926-1928

Scope and content

Correspondence received by Robert Wilson primarily from George Kinloch Kirke, St Stephens Church, Ipswich, Mission representative, Queensland. [Items 102-128]

Author / Creator

Kirke, George Kinloch, 1874-1947

Description

Description 27 letters

System of arrangement Chronological

Locate OMBOX Box 16243

Access

Access restrictions Unrestricted access

Copyright status Out of copyright

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Other

Notes

A detailed item list is available

Series 8: Papers (1912-1917)

Series number 8

Series title Papers

Date 1912-1917

Scope and content

Miscellaneous items relating to Robert Wilson, missionary and superintendent of Presbyterian Church Missions in Western Australia and Queensland.

- Envelope on which is written a note regarding the escape of Alex an Aboriginal man accused of the murder of Eric and Leslie McGuire in far north Western Australia in 1913/1914
- A sample of preserved, pressed sea weed presumably from Western Australia
- Three newspaper clippings relating to the fate of brothers Eric and Leslie McGuire and Thomas Newton who disappeared from their vessel 'Wanderer II' in June 1913
- Report of trial of Aborigines for murder of Reverend Robert Hall. 2 foolscap pages of pasted newspaper clippings relating to the arrest and trial of three Aboriginal men: Burketown Peter, Dick, and Myall Jimmy for the murder of Reverend Robert Hall in October 1917
- Leaflet titled '*Missions to the Aborigines in Western Australia*' by William Huey Steele (1867 - 1950) and Francis Arnold Moseley (1852-1919) 8 pages

[Items 129-133]

Author / Creator

Steele, William Huey, 1867-1950

Moseley, Francis Arnold, 1852-1919

Description

Description 1 folder (note, newspaper clippings, leaflet, artefact)

System of arrangement Chronological

Locate OMBOX Box 16243

Access

Access restrictions Unrestricted access

Copyright status Out of copyright

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Other

Notes

A detailed item list is available

Series 9: Telegrams (1910-1915)

Series number 9

Series title Telegrams

Date 1910-1915

Scope and content

Telegramms received by Reverend Robert Wilson on a variety of issues, including insurance, freight, supplies, exploration for mission site, mission staff. [Item 134]

Description

Description 61 telegrams

System of arrangement Chronological

Locate OMBOX Box 16243

Access

Access restrictions Unrestricted access

Copyright status Multiple copyright statuses

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Series 10: Photograph albums (1912-1939)

Series number 10

Series title Photograph albums

Date 1912-1939

Scope and content

Photograph albums created by Reverend Robert Wilson during his employment as superintendant of Presbyterian Aboriginal missions in Western Australia and Queensland.

- Photograph album of Port George IV Mission, Kunmunya, Western Australia 1912-1917

Photograph album of Mornington Island Mission, north Queensland 1919-1939

[Items 135 & 136] Duplicates of original albums available for public issue, see boxes 16241 O/S and 16242 O/S grey albums

Author / Creator

Wilson, Robert Hugh, 1884-1960

Wilson, Andrew Robert, 1913-2007

Description

Description 2 albums

Locate OMOSBOX 16259 O/S

Access

Access restrictions Some restrictions apply.

Copyright status Out of copyright

Conditions of use You are free to use for personal research and study. For other uses see <https://www.slq.qld.gov.au/understanding-copyright>.

Other

Notes

Albums may only be viewed at the State Library of Queensland, Brisbane.

Items in this series:

Port George IV Mission (1912-1917)

Unit ID 8074/135

Date 1912-1917

Scope and content

Spiral bound photograph album, with captioned images of the Wilson family and the Aboriginal people of the Port George IV Mission and Kunmunya. These images were principally taken by Reverend Robert Wilson, who with his wife Frances took up the challenge of establishing an Aboriginal Mission Station on the north west coast of Western Australia, approximately 480 km

north of Broome. The images show the beginning of the new mission at Kunmunya, clearing the site of mangroves, grass and timber; construction of the settlement buildings; the mission boat 'W.S. Park'; Walcott Inlet; mission staff: Robert and Frances Wilson, Mr & Mrs Paten, Mr Segrot.; and many images of the Indigenous people who lived close to or were associated with the Mission. The album has been annotated by his son Reverend Andrew Robert Wilson (1913-2007).

Author / Creator

Wilson, Robert Hugh, 1884-1960

Wilson, Andrew Robert, 1913-2007

Description

Description 1 album

Access

Access restrictions Some restrictions apply.

Copyright status Out of copyright

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Other**Notes**

The album has been scanned and is available for public use in the building. There are no digital copies available online. See Box 16241 O/S grey album

Mornington Island Mission (1919-1939)

Unit ID 8074/136

Date 1919-1939

Scope and content

Spiral bound photograph album, with captioned images of the Wilson family and the Aboriginal people of the Mornington Island Aboriginal Mission. The images were principally taken by Reverend Robert Wilson, who with his wife Frances, took over the superintendent position for the Presbyterian Church in 1918/1919. For many years the family worked unassisted, their

children at times helped with teaching and nursing activities. The Wilsons were later joined by the Reverend C.D. Sydney and his wife. Included in the album are early scenes of the closest mainland town, Burketown; the mission boat the "Morning Star"; Aboriginal camps; mission buildings; bech-de-mere processing; dugong and other fish catches; and mission working parties. Included in the album are images of Bentinck Islanders, Kaiadilt people taken in the 1930s; and many images of Aboriginal and Islander people who were brought to or associated with the mission during Wilson's time on Mornington Island.

Author / Creator

Wilson, Robert Hugh, 1884-1960

Wilson, Andrew Robert, 1913-2007

Description

Description 1 album

Access

Access restrictions Some restrictions apply.

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Other

Notes

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