



Birch Family Correspondence

Accession number M 840

Author / Creator

Birch, Charles Weldon, 1821-1894

Abstract Birch family papers and photographs.

Scope and content This collection chiefly comprises correspondence written Charles Weldon Birch to his sisters, Dolly, Charlotte and Rosa from 1882 to 1894. It includes three photographs; several letters are handwritten transcripts only.

Description 29 letters, 3 photographs, papers

Administrative / Biographical history Charles Weldon Birch (1821-1894) was one of six children born in England to Augustus Birch and Rosa Manuela Zelling. The family moved to Australia in 1829 when Augustus was assigned to the Colony of NSW, War Office. His three sons Gustavus, Charles and John were educated at Sydney College and Kings School, Parramatta. Charles Birch was a surveyor, explorer and avid plant collector, who later became a pastoralist in the Warrego area, Queensland. Many of his collections are held at the Herbarium and Royal Botanic Gardens, Melbourne. His brother to Gustavus John Birch lived for many years at Amity Point, North Stradbroke Island (Minjerribah).

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Preferred citation

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Series 1: Correspondence (1827-1962)

Series number 1

Series title Correspondence

Date 1827-1962

Scope and content

This series contains letters written by several members of the Birch family including: Augustus and his wife Rosa Manuela (nee Zelling) and their son Charles Weldon Birch who was an active botanical and zoological collector in Queensland. Charles Birch never married and in the later part of his life lived in North Queensland, where he was engaged in land surveying, but also acted as a tutor to the children of land owners. It is for this time that the majority of the correspondence relate, written mainly to his sister Dora (Dorothy Gibbes) who resided in Sydney.

Of particular interest

Charles writes in May 1883 to one of his sisters, and he recalls his experience 'with hostile blacks' ten years prior, in country near the Thompson River, describing a deterioration in Aboriginal-settler relations, as more and more land was occupied. Many of the letters in this series have been transcribed by family members, and have been included alongside the originals.

Author / Creator

Birch, Charles Weldon, 1821-1894

Birch, Augustus, 1787-1840 ;

Birch, Rosa Manuela, 1787-1854 ;

Birch, Jonathan, 1783-1847

Description

Description 29 letters (with transcripts)

Locate OMOSBOX Box 22959 O/S grey album OMOSBOX Box 10149 O/S

Access

Access restrictions Unrestricted access

Copyright status Out of copyright

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Items in this series:

Letter (23 September 1827)

Unit ID M840/1

Date 23 September 1827

Scope and content

Handwritten transcript of a letter written by Augustus Birch of the British Commissariat in Lisbon, Portugal to his wife Rosa Manuela, in Amsterdam. Copy only.

Author / Creator

Birch, Augustus, 1787-1840

Description

Description 1 transcript

Letter (3 February 1829)

Unit ID M840/2

Date 3 February 1829

Scope and content

Photocopy of original letter written by Rosa Manuela Birch in Sydney to her sister-in-law Eunice, in London. The letter has been cross-overwritten by her husband Augustus Birch, also to his sister. Includes two handwritten transcripts.

Author / Creator

Birch, Rosa Manuela, 1787-1854

Description

Description 1 letter (two transcripts)

Letter (17 February 1831)

Unit ID M840/3

Date 17 February 1831

Scope and content

Letter written by Augustus Birch, Sydney to his sister in England. Rosa Birch has included several lines on the bottom of the same letter.

Author / Creator

Birch, Augustus, 1787-1840

Birch, Rosa Manuela, 1787-1854

Description

Description 0

Letter (6 September 1845)

Unit ID M840/4

Date 6 September 1845

Scope and content

Charles Birch, Sydney writes to his uncle Jonathan Birch in London, giving family news and describing the imminent expedition to Port Essington by Thomas Mitchell. Includes a transcript supplied by the family, which has explanatory footnotes.

Author / Creator

Birch, Charles Weldon, 1821-1894

Description

Description 1 letter (& transcript)

Letter (1 November 1846)

Unit ID M840/5

Date 1 November 1846

Scope and content

Jonathan Birch, now in Berlin writes to his nephew Charles Birch, of the Surveyor General's Office, Sydney. He writes from their new residence, in response to Charles's request for information about his father's family, who came to England under the Normans from the province of Perche, taking the name de Perche, then de Berche, and then Birch. Includes a transcript supplied by the family, which includes footnotes.

Author / Creator

Birch, Jonathan, 1783-1847

Description

Description 1 letter (& transcript)

Letter (23 March 1872)

Unit ID M840/6

Date 23 March 1872

Scope and content

Field Marshall Lieutenant (F.M.L.) Jochmus, Vienna writes to Charles Birch that he is honoured to be advised by their mutual friend Doctor Von Mueller, that his name was to be given to the extensive lake recently discovered by Birch in Queensland. Lake Jochmus, now known as Lake Galilee, is located 76 km north-east of Aramac, Central Queensland. Baron Jochmus visited Australia briefly in 1870. Includes notes by the family written on an envelope.

Author / Creator

Jochmus, August Giacomo, 1808-1881

Description

Description 1 letter (& envelope)

Letter (16 December 1882)

Unit ID M840/7

Date 16 December 1882

Scope and content

Charles Birch, Alice River writes to his sister Dora (Dorothy) Gibbes in Sydney. Charles is concerned for his brother Gustavus's health, and hopes they can make up for any previous ill feelings, he asks after other family members and gives the seasons greetings.

Author / Creator

Birch, Charles Weldon, 1821-1894

Description

Description 1 letter

Letter (2 January 1883)

Unit ID M840/8

Date 2 January 1883

Scope and content

Charles Birch, Alice River writes to his sister Dora in Sydney. He writes to thank his nephews for attending the funeral of their late brother Gustavus, describing his as a hermit, who was venerated by the Aborigines on the island he lived for so long. The last page includes an ode to their brother.

Author / Creator

Birch, Charles Weldon, 1821-1894

Description

Description 1 letter

Letter (17 February 1883)

Unit ID M840/9

Date 17 February 1883

Scope and content

Charles Birch, Alice River via Bogantungan, writes to his sister Dora (Dorothy Gibbes). He writes of his solitary life and correspondence with Baron Mueller of the Botanic Gardens, Melbourne, and promises to secure some gems for her [pages missing].

Author / Creator

Birch, Charles Weldon, 1821-1894

Description

Description 1 letter (partial)

Letter (12 April 1883)

Unit ID M840/10

Date 12 April 1883

Scope and content

Charles Birch, Alice River via Bogantungan, writes to his nephew Hamilton Gibbes suggesting some ideas for study such as insects and shells.

Author / Creator

Birch, Charles Weldon, 1821-1894

Description

Description 1 letter

Letter (April 1883, 1884)

Unit ID M840/11

Date April 1883, 1884

Scope and content

Charles Birch, Alice River via Bogantungan, writes to his sister Dora (Dorothy Gibbes) he was grieved to hear of her son Hamilton's accident, and praises his quick action. He also provides a detailed description of the family crest, a Fleur de Lys entwined by a snake, and their heritage which can be traced to a daughter of Charlemagne.

Author / Creator

Birch, Charles Weldon, 1821-1894

Description

Description 1 letter

Letter (30 April 1883)

Unit ID M840/12

Date 30 April 1883

Scope and content

Charles Birch, Alice River via Bogantungan, writes to his sister Dora (Dorothy Gibbes). He asks after her son Hamilton and encourages his interest in entomology

Author / Creator

Birch, Charles Weldon, 1821-1894

Description

Description 1 letter

Letter (19 May 1883)

Unit ID M840/13

Date 19 May 1883

Scope and content

Charles Birch, Alice River via Bogantungan, writes to his sister Charlotte Lumsdaine regarding Jennie Von Pirch's husband being consul at Sumatra, he also provides an account of his experiences with hostile Aborigines in the 1870s. A partial typed transcript is included, it has been entitled "Giving an account of his experience with hostile blacks".

Author / Creator

Birch, Charles Weldon, 1821-1894

Description

Description 1 letter (partial transcript)

Letter (22 June 1883)

Unit ID M840/14

Date 22 June 1883

Scope and content

Charles Birch, Alice River via Bogantungan, writes to his sister ? Dora advising of all the great variety of reptiles and insects he has come across, suggesting he sends her some samples.

Author / Creator

Birch, Charles Weldon, 1821-1894

Description

Description 1 letter

Letter (14 April 1886)

Unit ID M840/15

Date 14 April 1886

Scope and content

Charles Birch, Bowen, writes to his sister Dolly (Dorothy Gibbes). He writes of his intention to travel to New Guinea and Timor, however while coming to Bowen was swept off his feet while crossing a river and lost all his belongings. He also asks that he be buried under a she oak.

Birch, Charles Weldon, 1821-1894

Description

Description 1 letter

Letter (29 September 1886)

Unit ID M840/16

Date 29 September 1886

Scope and content

Charles Birch, Pretty Bend, Bowen, writes to his sister [Dorothy Gibbes?]. He writes in detail of his discovery and observations of how a kangaroo is born and nurtured; the last page contains a verse written on the subject of exclusion of pictures [nudes] from the Queensland Exhibition.

Author / Creator

Birch, Charles Weldon, 1821-1894

Description

Description 1 letter

Letter (30 April 1888)

Unit ID M840/17

Date 30 April 1888

Scope and content

Charles Birch, Bowen, writes to his sister Dolly (Dorothy Gibbes). He enquires about an Agnes De Mestre who died in the Dunwich Benevolent asylum and the activities of his nephews. A typed transcript and a partial hand-written transcript is included.

Author / Creator

Birch, Charles Weldon, 1821-1894

Description

Description 1 letter (& transcript)

Letter (25 February 1889)

Unit ID M840/18

Date 25 February 1889

Scope and content

Charles Birch, Proserpine River, Bowen writes to his sister Dolly (Dorothy Gibbes). He expresses his condolences on the death of her son, his nephew Horace ; and insists he now spells his middle name (Welldon) with two lls. A typed transcript is included.

Author / Creator

Birch, Charles Weldon, 1821-1894

Description

Description 1 letter (& transcript)

Letter (1889-1893)

Unit ID M840/19

Date 1889-1893

Scope and content

Partial letter from Charles Birch, Queensland to his sister [Dorothy Gibbes]. He describes the children he is tutoring, and the parents "he a Dane, she a German" with an estate of about 3000 acres, with cattle, horses and maize. He also mentions that "Neilson" has built a separate school house which he has decorated with lilies and ferns.

Author / Creator

Birch, Charles Weldon, 1821-1894

Description

Description 1 letter

Letter (3 April 1890)

Unit ID M840/20

Date 3 April 1890

Scope and content

Charles Birch, Proserpine River, Bowen writes to his sister Dolly (Dorothy Gibbes). He is expecting to leave Prosperine very soon with the Emerson family, to go north to the Herberton area, where he will be employed as a tutor for their children.

Author / Creator

Birch, Charles Weldon, 1821-1894

Description

Description 1 letter

Letter (1893)

Unit ID M840/21

Date 1893

Scope and content

Charles Birch, California Creek, Cairns writes to his niece Rosa Gibbes. Birch enquires about family and friends, and writes that he has discovered a new lilly which he sent to Baron von Muller the director of the Botanic Gardens, Melbourne.

Author / Creator

Birch, Charles Weldon, 1821-1894

Description

Description 1 letter

Letter (7 September 1893)

Unit ID M840/22

Date 7 September 1893

Scope and content

Charles Birch, California Creek, Cairns writes to his niece Rosa Gibbes. He complains of neuralgia but otherwise is in good health, he intends to go to the coast at Xmas time to

collection shells and orchids.

Author / Creator

Birch, Charles Weldon, 1821-1894

Description

Description 1 letter

Letter (28 October 1893)

Unit ID M840/23

Date 28 October 1893

Scope and content

Charles Birch, California Creek, Cairns, writes to his sister Dolly (Doroth Gibbes) having read that his uncle CB Birch had passed away, and discusses the remaining family line.

Author / Creator

Birch, Charles Weldon, 1821-1894

Description

Description 1 letter

Letter (6 February 1894)

Unit ID M840/24

Date 6 February 1894

Scope and content

Charles Birch, California Creek, Cairns, writes to his sister Dolly (Dorothy Gibbes) giving his love to family, he is very unwell and is unable to sleep ; he has been surprised by the beauty of parrots he was shown that came from Croydon near the Gulf of Carpentaria.

Author / Creator

Birch, Charles Weldon, 1821-1894

Description

Description 1 letter (& envelope)

Letter (April 1894)

Unit ID M840/25

Date April 1894

Scope and content

Charles Birch, California Creek, Cairns writes to his sister Dolly (Dorothy Gibbes) advising her that he has had a shock [stroke] and was very grateful to be cared for by the Denfords.

Author / Creator

Birch, Charles Weldon, 1821-1894

Description

Description 1 letter

Letter (24 June 1894)

Unit ID M840/26

Date 24 June 1894

Scope and content

Dr Alexander Jack, Walsh District Hospital, writes to Dorothy Gibbes, Marrickville, advising of the death of her brother Charles on the 5th of that month, having suffered a seizure and who was buried in the hospital cemetery.

Author / Creator

Jack, Dr Alexander

Description

Description 1 letter

Account (6 July 1894)

Unit ID M840/27

Date 6 July 1894

Scope and content

Statement of account from the Walsh District Hospital to the Executor in the estate of the late

Charles Birch detailing costs for his care and burial.

Author / Creator

Walsh District Hospital

Description

Description 1 statement

Letter (30 March 1962)

Unit ID M840/28

Date 30 March 1962

Scope and content

Letter to Mrs P.L.S. Finch, Tooraweenah from the Secretary, Queensland Place Names Board advising they had forward her query to the University of Queensland. Includes envelope relating to original letter sent by Mrs Finch.

Author / Creator

Queensland Place Names Board, Brisbane

Description

Description 1 letter

Letter (9 May 1962)

Unit ID M840/29

Date 9 May 1962

Scope and content

Letter to Mrs P.L.S. Finch, Tooraweenah from the Secretary, Queensland Place Names Board advising they had identified the signature of Jochmus and the place name is an alternative for Lake Galilee, north of Aramac.

Author / Creator

Queensland Place Names Board, Brisbane

Description

Description 1 letter

Series 2: Photographs (1830-1915)

Series number 2

Series title Photographs

Date 1830-1915

Scope and content

Two original and one colour print of Charles Birch, his sister Dorothy Gibbes and their mother Rosa Manuella Birch.

Description

Description 3 photographs

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Items in this series:

Photograph (1830-1850)

Unit ID M840/30

Date 1830-1850

Scope and content

Colour print of an image of Rosa Manuella Birch, nee Zelling 1787-1854, mother to Charles

Birch.

Description

Description 1 colour print

Photograph (1880-1894)

Unit ID M840/31

Date 1880-1894

Scope and content

Carte de viste studio portrait of Charles Weldon Birch, date unknown

Description

Description 1 photograph

Photograph (1900-1915)

Unit ID M840/32

Date 1900-1915

Scope and content

Dorothy Gibbes nee Birch, sister of Charles Weldon Birch. Black and white photograph mounted on card. On reverse is a newspaper clipping giving Junior Exam results for Horace F.W. Gibbes.

Description

Description 1 photograph

Series 3: Papers (1827-1870)

Series number 3

Series title Papers

Date 1827-1870

Scope and content

This series contains baptism certificates for Rosa and her sister Charlotte Brich, daughters of Augustus and Rosa Manuela Birch, and loose pages from a volume which was titled 'Memorials of Captain Hedley Vicars, Ninety-Seventh Regiment'.

Description

Description 2 certificates (& loose pages)

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Access

Access restrictions Unrestricted access

Copyright status Out of copyright

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Items in this series:

Baptism certificate (11 April 1827)

Unit ID M840/33

Date 11 April 1827

Scope and content

Certificate recording the baptism of Charlotte Hannah Jane Birch, born to Augustus and Rosa Manuela Birch, 1 October 1826. It includes a hand-written English transcription.

Author / Creator

English Episcopal Church, Amsterdam

Description

Description 1 certificate (& transcription)

Baptism certificate (2 April 1836)

Unit ID M840/34

Date 2 April 1836

Scope and content

Certificate recording the baptism of Rosa Caroline Margaret Birch, born to Augustus and Rosa Manuela Birch, 3 April 1835. It includes a hand-written English transcription.

Author / Creator

English Episcopal Church, Amsterdam

Description

Description 1 certificate (& transcription)

Loose pages (1865-1870)

Unit ID M840/35

Date 1865-1870

Scope and content

Loose pages from the title "Memorials of Captain Hedley Vicars, Ninety-Seventh Regiment" by Catherine Marsh, published in 1856. The first page has been inscribed "To Charles Weldon Birch a remembrance from his Aunt Esme Bagster from England".

Author / Creator

Marsh, Catherine

Description

Description 4 pages