

# George Essex Evans Correspondence

**Accession number** OM66-27

**Author / Creator**

**Evans, George Essex, 1863-1909.**

**Scope and content** The collection consists of 10 poems, one of which is a holograph poem; 7 letters, one letter to Mr (afterwards Sir) Alfred Cowley, 6 to General Spencer Browne.

**Administrative / Biographical history** George Essex Evans was born in London and migrated to Queensland in 1881. He worked as a teacher, reporter for the 'Queenslander', farmer and public servant in Allora and Toowoomba and then contributed poetry and articles to local and Australian journals and to some British publications. In 1899 at Drayton he married Blanche Hopkins, nee Eglinton. His first volume of poetry was published in London in 1891, with later volumes in 1898, 1906 and a collected volume published posthumously in 1928. His patriotic poems brought Evans to national attention. He commemorated in verse the Federation movement, Queensland's golden jubilee, Australia's statesmen and the work of the pioneers. His publications were well received in Australia and England and he was one of the best-known and most popular poets of the day. When Evans died suddenly in Toowoomba on 10 November 1909, Prime Minister Alfred Deakin described him as Australia's 'national poet'. (Australian Dictionary of Biography)

**Access restrictions** Unrestricted access.

**Copyright status** Out of copyright.

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**Preferred citation**

OM66-27, George Essex Evans Correspondence, John Oxley Library, State Library of Queensland.

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**Series 1: Correspondence (1889-1909)**

**Series number** 1

**Series title** Correspondence

**Date** 1889-1909

**Scope and content**

Letters from George Essex Evans to Sir Alfred Cowley and General Spencer Browne.

**Author / Creator**

Evans, George Essex, 1863-1909

Description

**Description** 7 letters

**Additional format** Digital copies available

**Locate** OMOSBOX Box 8599 O/S

Access

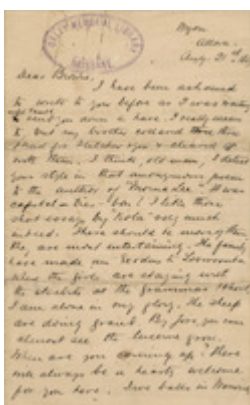
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Items in this series:

**Letter (21 August 1889)**



**Unit ID** OM66-27/1

Date 21 August 1889

### Scope and content

Letter to Browne from Allora. He discusses various local issues and also his disagreement with Butterfield regarding editing and publishing of his poems.

### Author / Creator

Evans, George Essex, 1863-1909

### Description

**Description** 1 letter (3 pages)

**Additional format** Digital copy available

**Locate** OMOSBOX Box 8599 O/S

### Access

**Access restrictions** Unrestricted access

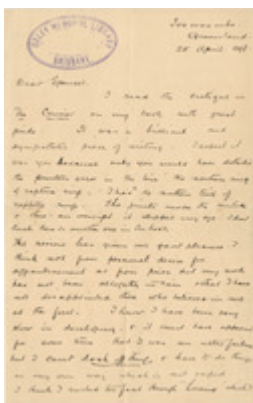
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## Letter (25 April 1898)



Unit ID OM66-27/2

Date 25 April 1898

### Scope and content

Letter to Spencer, from Toowoomba, regarding the critique he wrote of George's book, and thanks him for "a brilliant and sympathetic piece of writing."

### Author / Creator

Evans, George Essex, 1863-1909

### Description

**Description** 1 letter (2 pages)

**Additional format** Digital copy available

**Locate** OMOSBOX Box 8599 O/S

### Access

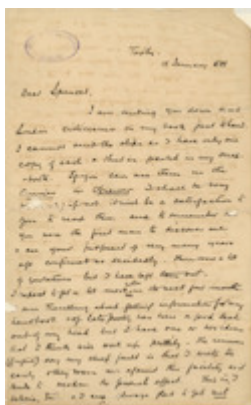
**Access restrictions** Unrestricted access

**Copyright status** Out of copyright

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## Letter (15 January 1899)



Unit ID OM66-27/3

Date 15 January 1899

Scope and content

Letter to Spencer, from Toowoomba, George is sending Spencer some London critiques of his book.

### Author / Creator

Evans, George Essex, 1863-1909

### Description

**Description** 1 letter (2 pages)

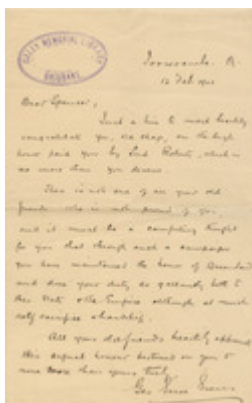
**Additional format** Digital copy available

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## Letter (12 February 1901)



**Unit ID** OM66-27/4

**Date** 12 February 1901

### Scope and content

Letter from Toowoomba, to Spencer, congratulating him “on the high honour paid you by Lord Roberts” and that it must “be a comforting thought for you that through such a campaign you have maintained the honour of Queensland and done your duty, so gallantly both to this State and the Empire...”

### Description

**Description** 1 letter (1 page)

**Additional format** Digital copy available

**Locate** OMOSBOX Box 8599 O/S

Access

**Access restrictions** Unrestricted access

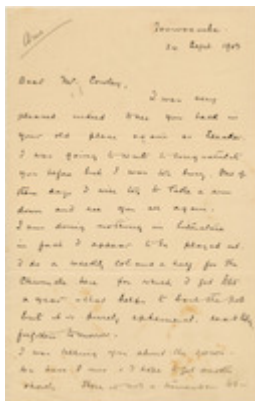
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## Letter (24 September 1903)



**Unit ID** OM66-27/5

**Date** 24 September 1903

**Scope and content**

Letter to Mr Cowley, from Toowoomba, in which Evans congratulates Cowley on regaining his role as Speaker.

**Author / Creator**

Evans, George Essex 1863–1909

Description

**Description** 1 letter (1 page)

**Additional format** Digital copy available

**Locate** OMOSBOX Box 8599 O/S

Access

**Access restrictions** Unrestricted access

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## Letter (18 December 1906)



**Unit ID** OM66-27/6

**Date** 18 December 1906

### Scope and content

Letter from Toowoomba, to Spencer, where he talks of his new work the 'Secret Key', a copy of which he has sent Spencer separately.

### Author / Creator

Evans, George Essex, 1863-1909

Description

**Description** 1 letter (1 page)

**Additional format** Digital copy available

**Locate** OMOSBOX Box 8599 O/S

Access

**Access restrictions** Unrestricted access

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## Letter (17 April 1909)



**Unit ID** OM66-27/7

**Date** 17 April 1909

**Scope and content**

Letter to Spencer, from 'Glenbar', Toowoomba, in which Evans sends Spencer a copy of his latest which was written for inclusion in the 'Jubilee of Queensland'.

**Author / Creator**

Evans, George Essex, 1863-1909

Description

**Description** 1 letter (1 page)

**Additional format** Digital copy available

**Locate** OMOSBOX Box 8599 O/S

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## Series 2: Poetry (1887-1904; 1909)

**Series number** 2

**Series title** Poetry

**Date** 1887-1904; 1909

**Scope and content**

Handwritten and typed copies of poems written by George Essex Evans:

- The Black Knight
- The Crown of Empire
- In the world sorrow, sin and strife (first line)
- Queen of the North
- A prose inbuilt
- In Memorium Walter R Patten
- Brunton Stephens
- William Henry Groom (Vale)
- Ye Ballade of ye Specyal Picnic (manuscript hologram poem)

## Author / Creator

Evans, George Essex, 1863-1909

## Description

**Description** 10 Poems

**Additional format** Digital copies available

**Locate** OMOSBOX Box 8599 O/S

## Access

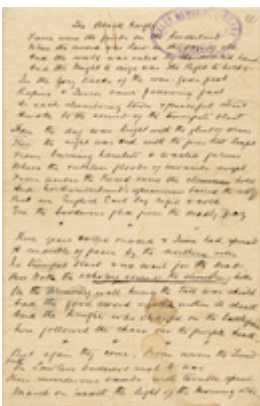
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## Items in this series:

### Poem (December 1887)



**Unit ID** OM66-27/8

**Date** December 1887

#### Scope and content

8 hand-written numbered pages (numbered 1-10, pages 7-8 are missing) of poem entitled "The Black Knight". The poem was written for The 'Queenslander' Christmas supplement for December 1887 by G. Essex Evans ("Christophus").

**Author / Creator**

Evans, George Essex, 1863-1909

## Description

**Description** 8 pages

**Additional format** Digital copy available

**Locate** OMOSBOX Box 8599 O/S

## Access

**Access restrictions** Unrestricted access

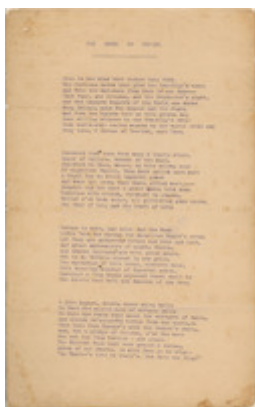
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## Poem (1902)



**Unit ID** OM66-27/9

**Date** 1902

### Scope and content

Two typed pages of the poem entitled "The Crown of Empire" with hand written note by Evans stating: "The Prime Minister of the Commonwealth, the Right Hon. Sir Edmund Barton, has taken with him to England a copy of these verses, printed in gold on white satin, for presentation to the King.

## Author / Creator

Evans, George Essex, 1863-1909

## Description

**Description** 2 pages

**Additional format** Digital copy available

**Locate** OMOSBOX Box 8599 O/S

## Access

**Access restrictions** Unrestricted access

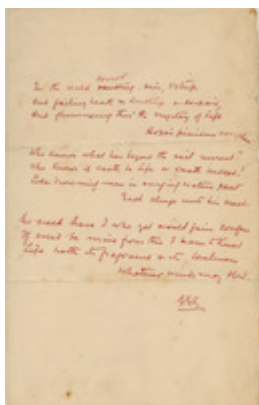
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## Poem (1887-1909?)



**Unit ID** OM66-27/10

**Date** 1887-1909?

### Scope and content

One page hand-written poem with no title or date but first line "In the world sorrow, sin and strife." This poem is referred to by Bill Johnston in his 2 volume work on Evans entitled "George Essex Evans: Patriotic poet of Australia", on page 438 of volume 2 (Complete

collection of his poetry) as entitled “In the World”

### Author / Creator

Evans, George Essex, 1863-1909

### Description

**Description** 1 page

**Additional format** Digital copy available

**Locate** OMOSBOX Box 8599 O/S

### Access

**Access restrictions** Unrestricted access

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## Poem (1 March 1909)



**Unit ID** OM66-27/11

**Date** 1 March 1909

### Scope and content

Four page hand-written and annotated copy of the poem entitled “Queen of the North” with note in corner of first page ‘For Queenslander Aug ‘09’. It is signed by George Essex Evans

and dated 1st March 1909.

## Description

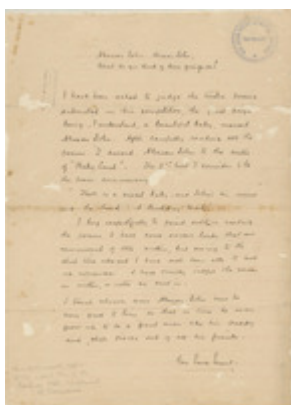
**Description** 4 pages

**Additional format** Digital copy available

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## Poem (1904)



**Unit ID** OM66-27/12

**Date** 1904

### Scope and content

A hand written piece starting with "Aeneas John, Aeneas John, What do you think the these goings on?" and continuing "I have been asked to judge the twelve poems submitted in this competition, the great prize being, I understand, a beautiful baby named Aeneas John..." It is signed Geo. Essex Evans but has no date. There is a pencilled in note that states that this piece must "refer to the infant son of Mr Aeneas John McDonnell of Toowoomba". [If this is so then the poem dates from 1904, when Aeneas John Lindsay McDonnell was born, according to the Monuments Men Foundation: <https://www.monumentsmenfoundation.org/the-heroes/the-monuments-men/mcdonnell-lt.-col.-a.-j.-l>]

### Author / Creator

Evans, George Essex, 1863-1909

## Description

**Description** 4 pages

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Access

**Access restrictions** Unrestricted access

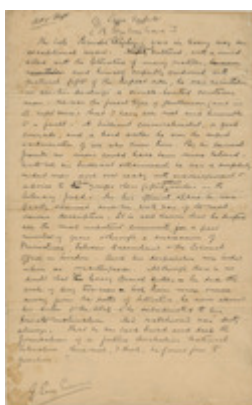
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## Poem (1902)



**Unit ID** OM66-27/13

**Date** 1902

**Scope and content**

Hand-written 'eulogy' for the late Brunton Stephens entitled "A prose inbuilt" by Evans.

**Author / Creator**

Evans, George Essex, 1863-1909

Description

**Description** 1 page

**Additional format** Digital copy available

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Access

**Access restrictions** Unrestricted access

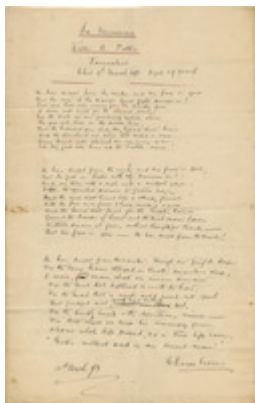
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## Poem (10 March 1893)



**Unit ID** OM66-27/14

**Date** 10 March 1893

**Scope and content**

Hand written poem entitled "In Memoriam Walter R Patten", journalist obit. 9th March 1893, aged 29 years.

**Author / Creator**

Evans, George Essex, 1863-1909

Description

**Description** 1 page

**Additional format** Digital copy available

**Locate** OMOSBOX Box 8599 O/S

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**Access restrictions** Unrestricted access

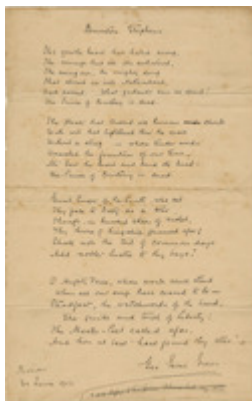
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## Poem (30 June 1902)



**Unit ID** OM66-27/15

**Date** 30 June 1902

**Scope and content**

A hand-written poem entitled "Brunton Stephens" dated 30 June 1902 signed by Geo. Essex Evans.

**Author / Creator**

Evans, George Essex, 1863-1909

Description

**Description** 1 page

**Additional format** Digital copy available

**Locate** OMOSBOX Box 8599 O/S

Access

**Access restrictions** Unrestricted access

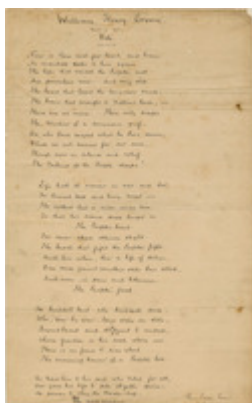
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## Poem (11 August 1901)



**Unit ID** OM66-27/16

**Date** 11 August 1901

**Scope and content**

Handwritten poem entitled "William Henry Groom (Vale)" signed George Essex Evans and dated 11 August 1901

**Author / Creator**

Evans, George Essex, 1863-1909

Description

**Description** 1 page

**Additional format** Digital copy available

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## Poem (21 February 1892)



**Unit ID** OM66-27/17

**Date** 21 February 1892

### Scope and content

Illustrated and handwritten poem written in an 'olde English style' and entitled "Ye Ballade of ye Specyal Picnic" signed with the date 21 February 1892. This poem is referred to by Bill Johnston in his two volume work on Evans entitled "George Essex Evans Patriotic poet of Australia", on page 365 of volume 2 (Complete collection of his poetry) and described as a "manuscript hologram" poem.

### Author / Creator

Evans, George Essex, 1863-1909

Description

**Description** 4 pages

**Additional format** Digital copy available

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