

Presented to the Royal Society of Tasmania by Willingham Franklin Rawnsley of Guildford, England, 1923-4

FRANKLIN PAPERS

See George Mackaness, *Some private correspondence of Sir John and Lady Jane Franklin (Tasmania 1837 - 1845)*, Sydney (1947) for published transcripts of these papers, although Mackaness omitted parts, particularly of Lady Franklin's letters.

These papers, and other Franklin papers, were owned by Willingham Franklin Rawnsley, a relative of Sir John Franklin, and used by him for his biography of Lady Franklin: *Life, diaries and correspondence of Jane Lady Franklin 1792 - 1875*, London (1923). The biography includes some quotations from letters and diaries but not complete transcripts. After the book was published he presented some papers relating to Tasmania to the Royal Society of Tasmania (some other papers were given to the National Library, Canberra).

Many of the papers are only copies (some with omissions), not original, as, according to Rawnsley, after Lady Franklin's death her niece and companion, Sophia Cracroft, selected some papers for publication and had illegible ones copied or extracted and the originals were destroyed. The copies or extracts have been corrected and edited.

Sir John Franklin (1786-1847) was Governor of Tasmania from 184³ until 1843. He is also remembered as a naval officer and arctic explorer. He was knighted for his second arctic exploration of 1824 - 1828 but died on an expedition to find the North-West Passage in 1847. He married Jane Griffin (1791-1875) in 1828, his first wife Eleanor having died leaving one child Eleanor. Jane Lady Franklin was interested in education and the arts and endeavoured to establish in Tasmania a college (Christ College), girls school and museum and art gallery. She was also interested in Elizabeth Fry's work to reform women convicts.

A few other Franklin papers, from other sources, are also held by the Royal Society (RS17, RS18). Other papers are in the Scott Polar Research Institute, England (microfilm copies in the State Archives Office of Tasmania), the National Library, Canberra, the British Museum, and the Gell Papers, Derbyshire, England.

JANE LADY FRANKLIN

LETTERS

- 1 (1) Sir John Franklin to Lady Franklin Apr. 1839 - Apr. 1841
(9 letters some of many pages) RS16/1(1)
- 1 (2) Correspondence with Elizabeth Fry 3 Aug. 1841, 1842
Copy of Lady Franklin's letter to Mrs Fry about the state of the women prisoners (3 Aug. 1842) and Mrs Fry's reply.
(2 letters on 6 papers) RS16/1(2)
- 1 (3) Copies of letters 1843
Copy of letter from Lady Franklin to Dr. Turnbull: his aged mother, Dr. Gell and Eleanor etc. 21 Nov. 1843; copy of Sir John Franklin's letter to the Bishop of Australia [Broughton]: farewell, hoped Bishop of Tasmania would prove good support 6 Dec. 1843.
(5 papers from small notebook (cf diaries) headed "appendix") RS16/1(3) /

DIARIES

- 2 (1) Visit to Port Arthur & East Coast [Jan. 1838]
Including Port Arthur (railway, Booth), Spring Bay, Launceston (grades of guests invited to evening parties, Mr Dowling the bookseller, Ronald Gunn, Mr Brown's church), and start for Flinders Island (note of number of aboriginals receiving rations). Date added in modern hand.
(pages from small notebook or blank pages of letters, incomplete or out of order) RS16/2(1)
- 2 (2) Visit to Port Davey Dec. 1838
Intended as excursion to Macquarie Harbour but the party did not reach there, describes mainly Research Bay. Date and annotations in different hand.
(pages from small notebook) RS16/2(2)
- 2 (3) ^eDeparture from Hobart Nov. 1843
(pages from small notebook) RS16/2(3)
- 2 (4) An excursion from Melbourne [Dec. 1843-4]
Mentions a camp of aborigines, crossing Mannaloid Hills, visit to Mr J[ohn] Hebburn, and comments on the Colony. written on the backs of old letters, annotated by W.F.Rawnsley.
(3 papers) RS16/2(4)
- 2 (5) Incomplete diary of voyage home Mar. 1844
(loose papers) RS16/2(5)
(pages 110, 112, [143], [15] , [1001])

SOCIETIES

Minutes of a meeting held to establish "The Tasmanian Ladies' Society for the Reformation of Female Prisoners" and letter to Lady Franklin, Patroness Sep. 1841 (2 papers) R.S.16/3

Papers relating to the Tasmanian Society 1841-1842 comprising draft Report for 1841, copies of letters to members, list of members receiving the Journal, and a letter from R.C.Gunn about printing the Tasmanian Journal 19 Sep. 1842 (3 papers) R.S.16/4

Miscellaneous papers relating to "Ancanthe", including copy of inscription on foundation stone, and two admission cards to opening of Museum, one for Capt. J. Ross and copy of parchment of document to be placed under corner stone, in 6 languages. (3 papers, 1 parchment doc.) also photographic negative of 1842 R.S.16/5

SIR JOHN FRANKLIN

Copies of letters from Lady (Jane) Franklin 20 June 1839, 21 Apr. 1841 (notebook) R.S.16/6(1)

Extract of letter from Captain F. Beaufort to Sir John Franklin 10 June 1840 Refers to alterations of name of Hobart & Tasmania (1 paper) R.S.16/6(2)

JOHN GRIFFIN

Copies of letters from his daughter Lady (Jane) Franklin 1838 - 42 R.S.16/7

MRS. MARY SIMPKINSON

Copies of letters from her sister Lady (Jane) Franklin 1838 - 43 (18 letters) R.S.16/8

SOPHIA CRACROFT

Diary describing the Franklins' departure from Melbourne Jan, 1844 (small pieces of paper) R.S.16/9

COPIES

Typed copies or extracts of the papers as originally arranged by W.F.Rawnsley c. 1923 (2 folders) R.S.16/10a }
10b }

J.P.GELL

Letter from J.P.Gell to Capt. Ross 28 Oct. 1843 Written as secretary of the Tasmanian Society requesting books for the museum built by Lady Franklin and written (ms.) on blank pages of a circular to members giving an account of the Tasmanian Society (1 paper) R.S.16/11

ANCANTHE MUSEUM

Copy of the inscription on the 'foundation stone of the Museum at Ancanthe 16 March 1842' headed 'Supplement No. 4' Endorsed with pencil note signed W.H.H. [W.H. Hudspeth] that it was incorrect. (1 paper) RS.16/12