

AUSTRALIAN JOINT COPYING PROJECT

JAMES C. CRAWFORD

Papers, 1837-80

Reels M600, M687-88

**Brigadier H.N. Crawford
Naughton House Farm
Wormit
Fife Scotland**

**National Library of Australia
State Library of New South Wales**

Filmed: 1954, 1966

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE

James Coutts Crawford (1817-1889), the son of a naval officer, was born at Overton, Lanarkshire, Scotland. He was educated at the Royal Naval College at Portsmouth and served on several ships in South American waters and in the Mediterranean. He left the Navy in 1836 and in the following year sailed to Australia on the *Coromandel*. He made a number of journeys in the Sydney region and in 1838-39 was one of the first men to travel overland from Sydney to Adelaide. In 1839 he made his first visit to New Zealand, where he journeyed from the Bay of Islands to Port Nicholson (Wellington). He bought a property on the Watts (Miramar) Peninsula from the New Zealand Company, where he established the Glendavar cattle farm. In 1841 he returned to Britain where he married Sophia Dundas, the daughter of Admiral Sir James Dundas.

Crawford and his wife sailed to New Zealand in 1846. He developed his farm, constructed a tunnel to drain Burnham Water, explored Wairarapa and took a strong interest in public affairs and relations with Maori leaders. The Crawfords spent a lengthy period in New South Wales, before returning to Britain, where Sophia died in 1852. In 1857 Crawford married Jessie McBarnet and again sailed to New Zealand. He expanded his farm and bought other properties in the Wairarapa and the Hutt Valley. In 1861 he was appointed provincial geologist and carried out a number of surveys in the country north of Wellington. He was a member of the Geological Society of London and wrote many articles on geology, botany, engineering and agriculture for the *Transactions and Proceedings of the New Zealand Institute*. He was a member of the New Zealand Legislative Council from 1859 to 1867 and for many years he was resident magistrate and sheriff of Wellington. He had been a captain in the Lanark Militia and in 1864 was appointed a captain in the Wellington Militia.

In 1880 Crawford published *Recollections of travel in New Zealand and Australia*. He died in London.

Note: Further papers of the Crawford Family are held in the Berkshire Record Office and selections were filmed by the Australian Joint Copying Project on reel M713.

JAMES C. CRAWFORD

Reel M600

Correspondence and other documents, 1840-75

Account of Crawford with B.A. Cunningham and J.R. Wilkinson concerning purchase of cattle, valued at £138.00, 29 July 1840.

William Hardy (Melbourne) to Crawford, 23 Feb. 1841: purchase of 2500 wethers; predicts that Sydney will 'go to Hell' if Port Phillip is separated from New South Wales.

Sir James Dundas to James and Sophia Crawford, 9 April 1847: death of Crawford's mother; estates of Crawford in New South Wales and New Zealand should be settled; death of Sir George Gipps.

J.C. Bidwill (Sydney) to Crawford, 9 Oct. 1848: urgent need to receive Crawford's report on mine; encloses plan on tracing paper; another report suggests existence of gold as well as silver.

J.C. Bidwill (off Cape Byron) to Crawford, 25 Nov. 1848: salary of Gother V. Mann; refers to John Darvall, Stuart Donaldson, W.M. Rothery, Macarthur, White and Thomas Icely.

Henry P. Hill (Wellington) to Crawford, 10 March 1849: doubts if Hervey will take [Miramar] Peninsula; advises planting grapes on flat reclaimed from Burnham Water; tunnel has suffered no damage in recent earthquake; improvements to the race course; news of race meetings; marriages of Miss Swainson and Miss Fitzgerald.

William Hardy (Muttamar) to Crawford, 11 Aug. 1849: thanks for help with Eunanarina; has found a station in 'The Levels' country north of Gundagai; De Salis has a station in this country; entertainment at Yarraminga; acquisition of terriers.

Gother V. Mann (Molong Mining Company) to Crawford, 1 May 1850: acknowledges receipt of £60.

List of the original shareholders in Fitzroy Mine. (1p)

Receipt signed by John Poynter for £33.18.0 received from David Monro acting for Crawford for land in Waitotu Town, 1 June 1858.

Capt. William Loring (Sydney) to Sir James Dundas, 8 Sept. 1858: has traced William Page; plans to see Crawford in Wellington; difficult and dangerous cruise; difficulties with Governor Sir William Denison.

Capt. William Loring (Wellington) to Sir James Dundas, 10 March 1859: meeting with Crawford and his wife; describes Crawford's property and Wellington.

James W. Balfour (Wellington) to Crawford, 27 Feb. 1868: a dry dock; sends a sketch of the Imperial Graving Dock at Sebastopol.

Laidley Mort (Sydney) to Crawford, 12 Aug. 1868: dry docks.

George Aickin (Auckland) to Crawford, 5 Oct. 1870: floating dock designed by Aickin.

E. Thackeray (?) (Kaikoura) to Crawford, 21 April 1872: eradication of rabbits.

B.W. Mountfort (Christchurch) to Crawford, 30 July 1872: uses of concrete for building.

Crawford. Draft of a letter to the *Wellington Independent* on concrete.

Herbert Wardell (Featherston) to Crawford, 31 Aug. 1872: sending information on 'the Peninsula' and the fight with Te Rauparaha.

B.W. Mountfort (Christchurch) to Crawford, 26 Sept. 1872: concrete for building.

W. Montagu Rothery (Carcoa, NSW) to M. Fitzpatrick, 6 April 1873: Belubula and Fitzroy Mines and interest of Crawford and J. Bidwill.

Receipts for goods purchased by Crawford in Wellington, 1872-75. (3)

Description of Richmond Hill Silver Mine, Parapara Stream, discovered by James Washbourne in 1875.

Watercolour sketches and drawings

Sydney Harbour, with the steeple of St James's Church

Woolshed, Eton Vale, Darling Downs

Forest Lodge, Glebe, Sydney, 1844 (Crawford's home)

Views of the Glebe, 1846-49 (6)

Views of 'Glendavar', Burnham Water and Port Nicholson (5)

Mr Bidwill's house, Wairarapa

Church at Taranaki

Wharekaka Station, Clifford and Weld's station, 1846

Views of Mt Egmont (2)

Note: These sketches are also reproduced on reel M688.

Reel M687

Diaries of J.C. Crawford, 1837-65

1. Diary, 23 November – 2 December 1837

Diary kept on a voyage from Campbelltown, Scotland, to Londonderry, Ireland, and while travelling in Ireland, including references to Sligo and Boyle.

2. Diary, 16 December 1838 – 23 April 1839

Diary kept on an overland journey from Sydney to Adelaide with a herd of cattle, including cattle belonging to Captain Charles Sturt. The expedition, led by Crawford and his overseer Coutts, travelled to Berrima, Goulburn and Gundagai, and then followed the Murrumbidgee and Murray Rivers and sometimes the tracks of Edward Eyre, who had made an overland journey several months earlier. There are references to visits to pastoral properties, books, an encounter with bushrangers, purchases of cattle, the landscape and geology, meetings and conflict with Aborigines, continual searches for missing cattle, and the accidental death of one of the bullock drivers. At the end of the book is a listing of the expenses of the journey.

3. Autobiographical notes and diary, 1817-45

The volume contains Crawford's reminiscences of his life, beginning with his birth in Scotland in 1817 and ending with an account of his voyage from Liverpool to Sydney on the *Elizabeth* (12 Dec. 1844-31 March 1845) and his impressions of Sydney after an absence of three years. The memoir covers his first visit to Australia and New Zealand in 1838-41 and includes a very detailed record of his return voyage to England (Dec. 1841-Sept. 1842), including lengthy stops at the Philippines, Singapore, Bombay and Cairo and his journey across Europe. It also refers to his return to Scotland and his marriage to Sophia Dundas.

4. Diary, 29 April 1845 -20 October 1848

The diary continues on from the previous volume and describes his life in Sydney, news of warfare in New Zealand, a voyage to Newcastle and Moreton Bay (Nov. 1845), a visit to the Darling Downs and 'Eton Vale' and the departure of Crawford and his family to New Zealand (Jan. 1846). The New Zealand section refers to their arrival at the Bay of Islands, the destruction of Kororareka, visits to Auckland and Wellington, movements of troops and warships, fighting at the Hutt Valley, the building of a tunnel from Evans Bay to Burnham Water, meetings with Maoris and visits to their villages, travels in the North Island, visits to New Plymouth (Feb. 1847) and Nelson (March 1847), travels with Governor George Grey, Grey's interference in the military campaign, and the topography and geology of New Zealand. The last section describes a voyage to Sydney (Nov. 1847), the death of Lady FitzRoy, a visit to Brisbane and the Darling Downs (Jan. 1848), travels in New South Wales, the Yass lead mines, the Legislative Council elections (July 1848) and a visit to the Blue Mountains and Bathurst (Oct. 1848). At the end of the volume are some notes about Crawford's life from 1817 to 1862, written in another hand.

5. Diary, 12 October 1857 – 26 October 1859

At the beginning of the volume are memoranda, copies of letters and extracts from newspapers, 1854-57. The diary describes the voyage of Crawford and his second wife from Portsmouth to Wellington (12 Oct. 1857-20 Jan. 1858), with stops at Malta, Alexandria, travels in Egypt, Aden, Ceylon and Melbourne, impressions of Wellington on his return, a visit to Burnham Water, land purchases, the commencement of work on a tunnel (March 1858), General Assembly elections, and visits to Lyttelton and Christchurch (Aug. 1858) and Dunedin (Sept. 1858). The 1859 entries are very brief.

6. Diary, 9 October – 31 December 1861

Written in very faint pencil, the diary records visits to Wairarapa and Rangiora and includes notes on the Wanganui River.

7. Diary, 8 January – 14 February 1862

Written in pencil, the diary covers a journey from Wanganui to Lake Taupo and back.

8. Notebook and diary, 1 – 14 March 1862

Written in pencil, the diary contains notes on Manawatu, possibly for a geological report, and a few diary entries written in Wanganui.

9. Diary, 28 June – 22 December 1862

The diary records Crawford's work in his first six months as Government Geologist.

10. Diary, 26 December 1862 – 26 January 1863

Written in pencil, the diary records a journey from the Upper Hutt to Waikanae and the return journey following Beetham's Line.

11. Diary, 21 March 1864 – 16 May 1865

Written in pencil, the diary describes travels in Southland, including visits to Christchurch, Invercargill, the Bluff, Waipori and Lyttelton, and a voyage to Wellington and Napier.

Manuscripts of J.C. Crawford

1. Australia, 1838-41

Recollections by Crawford of his first visit to Australia in 1838-41, referring to the voyage to New South Wales, a detailed description of Sydney, a journey to Berrima and Braidwood, overland journeys to South Australia in 1837, the diary of his overland journey from Sydney to Adelaide in 1838-39, his impressions of Adelaide and economic conditions in the colony in 1839, the naturalisation of German immigrants, an encampment at Mount Crawford, encounters with Aborigines, and his visits to Melbourne and Adelaide in 1841. The manuscript was probably written when Crawford was writing his recollections, published in 1880, but only the account of the overland journey appeared in the book.

Reel M688

Manuscripts

2. New Zealand, 1838-41

The lengthy manuscript focuses on Crawford's first visit to New Zealand in 1839-41 and deals mainly with his observations of Maori society and the relations between Maoris and Europeans, particularly in the Wellington and Queen Charlotte Sound regions. It also refers to the topography and resources of these regions, early whaling settlements, the purchase of land by Colonel William Wakefield at Port Nicholson, relations between the first European settlers at Port Nicholson, Francis Molesworth and other early settlers, the literacy of the Maoris, and the town of Auckland. The last part of the manuscript is a detailed account of Crawford's journey back to England in 1841-42. This journey forms a chapter in his *Recollections* (1880), but his other early experiences in New Zealand are dealt with cursorily in the published work.

Watercolour sketches, drawings and photographs

1. Australian sketches and watercolours

Sydney Harbour and steeple of St James's Church
Eton Vale, Darling Downs (2)
Forest Lodge, Glebe, 1844
Harbour near Glebe
Glebe, Sydney, 1844-46 (6)
A point in Rushcutters Bay
Near Mount Victoria, Blue Mountains
A hill not far from Berrima
Camp on the Murrumbidgee
Limestone cliff and shallow cave on banks of the Murrumbidgee, 8 miles from Yass
Murrumbidgee River showing stratification of the fossiliferous limestone
Sydney Harbour, 1849 (3)
Parramatta River (?)
St Mary's Cathedral, Sydney, 1849
View from the wharf at Parramatta
Coogee Bay 1847: view of the residence of Robert Lowe
Sydney Harbour
St John's Church, Parramatta
[Edward] Darvall's house, Parramatta River, looking east
Parramatta River, 1848
Granite, New South Wales, 1847

2. Australian pencil sketches

Boree Caves, New South Wales
View from Rothery's house, New South Wales
Main shaft, Belubula

View from T.H. Wood's house, New South Wales

3. New Zealand views

Burnham Water, Glendaver, Port Nicholson

Glendavar, with Cook's Strait in the distance

Port Nicholson from Kaiwarrawarra

Harbour of Port Nicholson looking towards the Tararua Range

Evans Bay and mouth of the tunnel from Burnham Water

Mr Bidwell's house, Waiarapa

Church at Taranaki, with Sugarloaf Islands in the distance

Wharekaka Station at Ruamahanga River, Clifford and Weld's station, 1849

Mt Egmont and New Plymouth

Mt Egmont and parsonage, Taranaki

4. Sketchbook

Sketches (63) drawn by Crawford on a trip up the Wanganui River, August 1864, including portraits of Maoris.

5. Photographs

Photographic portraits of Crawford. (poor quality)