

**AUSTRALIAN JOINT COPYING PROJECT**

**PETWORTH HOUSE ARCHIVES**

**Records, c. 1749-1861**

**Reel M823**

**The Rt. Hon. Lord Egremont  
Petworth House  
Petworth, West Sussex**

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

**Filmed: 1972**

## HISTORICAL NOTE

The Petworth estate in West Sussex was acquired by the Percy Family in the twelfth century. In 1377 Henry Percy was created Earl of Northumberland and he and his descendants used the manor house at Petworth as an occasional residence. In 1670 the Percy estates passed to Lady Elizabeth Percy, who later married Charles Seymour, 6<sup>th</sup> Duke of Somerset. He completely rebuilt Petworth House as a palatial baroque mansion. His son, the 7<sup>th</sup> Duke of Somerset, acquired the additional title of Earl of Egremont in 1749. In the following year he died and his nephew Sir Charles Wyndham inherited the Earldom and the Petworth estates, as well as Egremont Castle in Cumbria and Leconfield Castle in Yorkshire. He commissioned 'Capability' Brown to create the park at Petworth House.

George Wyndham (1751-1837), 3<sup>rd</sup> Earl of Egremont, became the owner of Petworth House in Sussex on the death of his father in 1763. He also inherited estates in Cumbria, Wiltshire and Somerset and later in Ireland. He was a patron of artists such as J.W.M. Turner, John Constable and Joseph Flaxman, and assembled one of the finest collections of paintings and sculptures in England. He had many other interests, including agricultural development and canal construction. After the Napoleonic Wars there were long periods of depression in rural England and a great deal of poverty among agricultural workers. Egremont supported the efforts of Thomas Sockett, the rector of Petworth, who set up the Petworth Emigration Scheme. Between 1832 and 1837 it sent 1800 emigrants, mostly from Sussex and neighbouring counties, to Upper Canada. Egremont paid the passages of his tenants, while parish funds were used to provide them with extra clothing and equipment. For details of the Petworth Emigration Scheme see Sheila Haines and Leigh Lawson. *Poor cottages and proud palaces: the life and work of Reverend Thomas Sockett of Petworth, 1777-1859*, Hastings, 2007.

In 1837 Lord Egremont's nephew George Wyndham (1786-1845) inherited the title and the estates in Somerset. The Petworth estate, however, passed to Egremont's illegitimate son, George Wyndham (1787-1869), who became 1<sup>st</sup> Baron Leconfield in 1859. Wyndham entered the Royal Navy in 1789 and transferred to the Army in 1802. He served in various campaigns during the Napoleonic Wars and by 1812 was Lieutenant-Colonel commanding the 20<sup>th</sup> Light Dragoons. He was promoted to the rank of colonel in 1830. Colonel Wyndham continued his father's policy of assisting tenants who wished to emigrate, particularly during the Irish Famine of the 1840s. The descendants of Lord Leconfield were the owners of Petworth House until 1947, when it was presented to the National Trust.

The Petworth House Archives is now held by the West Sussex Record Office, 3 Orchard Street, Chichester PO19 1DD.

## PETWORTH HOUSE ARCHIVES

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#### General correspondence

P.H.A. 1622 Letters about the conduct of W.H. Yaldwyn on a voyage to Australia, 1844-45

Capt. Logan to J.L. Ellis, 26 July 1845: rumour surrounding Miss Bowles and Mr Yaldwyn, with a copy of a statement by Capt. Thomas Grieves of the *Royal George*, 16 Aug. 1845. (copy)

Rev. H. Foster to J.L. Ellis, 28 July 1845: his willingness to write in defence of Mr Yaldwyn regarding allegations. (copy)

Rev. John Cole to J.L. Ellia, 31 July 1845: Yaldwyn's plan to dispose of Blackdown and go to Port Phillip; his wife had declined to accompany him; Yaldwyn and Miss Bowles. (copy)

J.L. Ellis (Stretton Hall, Leicester) to Rev. Thomas Sockett (Petworth), 25 Aug. 1845: hopes that he will circulate the facts about Yaldwyn; encloses copies of letters.

J.L. Ellis to Rev. Thomas Sockett, 3 Sept. 1845: did not intend to cast blame on Cole's conduct.

Col. George Wyndham to Rev. Thomas Sockett, n.d.: returns papers; seems a satisfactory answer for those who have doubts.

#### Estate and financial correspondence

P.H.A. 729 Correspondence concerning emigration schemes, 1837-39

Col. G. Wyndham (Drove, Midhurst) to Rev. T. Sockett, 7 Jan. 1838: Canadas are not inviting more settlers; inquires if unemployed Petworth people could go to Australia.

Col. G. Wyndham to ?, 4 Feb. 1838: knows of three young women needing help to establish themselves, all with good references; would send one to Australia.

Col. G. Wyndham to Rev. T. Sockett, 6 Feb. 1838: will establish three Ayliffe men provided they will go to Australia; reorganisation of his stables and other matters.

J.W. Brydone to Rev. T. Sockett, 17 Aug. 1838: refers to 180 applicants on his list for emigration, most of whom prefer to go to Australia.

Col. G. Wyndham to W. Chudleigh, 15 Sept. 1838: will send Mrs Martin to Australia but give her no assistance in this country.

P.H.A. 731 Correspondence on emigration, 1837-47

Col. G. Wyndham to Rev. T. Sockett, 23 Feb. 1838: refers to emigrants to Australia.

Col. G. Wyndham to Rev. T. Sockett, 25 Feb. 1838: emigrants for Australia.

Mary Wyndham (London) to ?, n.d.: Col. Wyndham objects to Planner having to teach boys; four villages dependent on this house.

P.H.A. 734 Copy letters on emigration, 1838

Rev. T. Sockett to Col. G. Wyndham, 8 Jan. 1838: business matters; need for emigration to Australia; Government intends to send out agricultural labourers but he believes Upper Canada would be better for them.

Rev. T. Sockett to Col. G. Wyndham, 5 Feb. 1838: three brothers; a world glut of medical men; the joiner would be best in Canada or Australia; if three are on good terms they should all go to Australia.

Rev. T. Sockett to Col. G. Wyndham, 6 Feb. 1838: waiting for information on whether old or new settlement is most suitable for the three young men.

Rev. T. Sockett to Col. G. Wyndham, 22 Feb. 1838: joint opinion of J.W. Brydone and himself is that he should purchase land in the new settlement, as near as possible to Adelaide; plans for three young prospective emigrants.

Rev. T. Sockett to Col. G. Wyndham, 6 April 1838: sending the Australian rules; investment in Australia.

Rev. T. Sockett to Col. G. Wyndham, 7 April 1838: Mitchell of Haslemere, married to a daughter of Hankey Smith, eager to go to Australia; money for purchasing land in South Australia.

P.H.A. 736 Colonel Wyndham's Irish letter book, 1839-43

Select pages:

26 Col. G. Wyndham to Mrs Fox, 18 Sept. 1838: glad to advise people whom she suggests as emigrants to Australia; eligible under Government regulations. (copy)

117-18 Col G. Wyndham to ?, 28 Jan. 1841: success of emigration of labourers; Canada is greatly to be preferred to Australia for people of this description; Australia is only good for great capitalists and offers labourer no means of acquiring property. (copy)

P.H.A. 738 Letters of E.J. Wheeler and T. Sockett on Australian land rents, 1840-58

E.J. Wheeler (London) to Rev. T. Sockett, 31 July 1840: submits a plan of Western Australian Company's new settlement at Australind. Note added that Col. W. not disposed to make any further purchase in Australia at present.

E.J. Wheeler to Rev. T. Sockett, 1 Oct. 1840: advice on Australian shares.

E.J. Wheeler to Rev. T. Sockett, 6 Oct. 1840: shares purchased for Col. Wyndham.

E.J. Wheeler to R. Currie (South Australia), 2 Nov. 1840; investments in South Australian Company; statistics of the settlement. (copy)

Bill of exchange for £45.0.0 on the South Australian Banking Company to the order of William Jacob, 5 March 1858.

Mary Jacob (Morooroo, South Australia) to [Col. G. Wyndham], 8 March 1858: sends a bill of exchange for £45.0.0 as the rent of John Jacob who has not been able to work due to a fall from his horse. (copy)

Col. G. Wyndham (Brighton) to Brydone, 23 June 1858; sends letter and bill of exchange from Mary Jacob.

Note concerning shares in South Australian Company.

P.H.A. 742 Correspondence on emigration assistance, 1838-43

An account of Col. Wyndham of expenses paid to assist families to emigrate, or compensation approved in lieu, 1838-43.

### **Emigration correspondence**

P.H.A. 136 Letters from Thomas Bannister and Thomas Henty, 1829-30

Thomas Bannister (Fremantle) to Lord Egremont, 5 Nov. 1829: arrival at Swan River; emigrants feel they have been deceived; fine land about 20 miles up the river; good reports on other riverside areas; believes country will succeed but would not recommend that people come yet; discovery of a fine salt mine; anchorages; hopes to survey other areas.

Thomas Henty (West Tarring) to Lord Egremont, 28 Aug. 1830: horses bred by Egremont to be sent to Swan River for the market in the East Indies; his son has taken 60,000 acres at Leschenault, 90 miles south of Swan River. With a list of horses and descriptions, including five sent to Swan River in 1829.

Thomas Bannister (Swan River) to Lord Egremont, 25 Sept. 1830: progress in exploration; has taken a grant in the hills where timber is good; success of the colony is assured if wheat can be grown well; defunct establishments of Thomas Peel and Col. Lawton; seeks a post in the colony; labour.

P.H.A. 1054 Correspondence

Carter & Burns (London) to Rev. T. Sockett, 2 Oct. 1840: seeking a report on Thomas Ryan, surgeon on the *Waterloo*, who has applied for a similar post on one of their Sydney ships.

Carter & Burns to Rev. T. Sockett, 8 Oct. 1840: Ryan has been appointed surgeon superintendent on the *Portland*, leaving for Sydney on 31<sup>st</sup>.

James Murray (London) to Lord Egremont, 20 Oct. 1840: life insurance policy for Egremont's journey to the United States, Canada and Australia.

P.H.A. 1057 Correspondence on emigration, 1838-40

T.F. Elliot (Colonial Office) to Col. G. Wyndham, 1 Feb. 1839: thanks for advice on premature selling up by emigrants; a ship will be provided in the summer to take poor Irish unemployed to New South Wales.

Sir George Gipps (Sydney) to Lord Glenelg, 1 Feb. 1839: complaint of four families (Smith, Thompson, Gaynor, Shaughnessy) who thought they were embarking for South Australia. (copy)

Henry Labouchere (Colonial Office) to Col. G. Wyndham, 20 July 1839: four families who were sent to New South Wales rather than South Australia.

J.W. Brydone (Petworth) to H. Labouchere, 4 Aug. 1839: four families who landed in New South Wales.

Extract from a statement on the selection of suitable emigrants with reference to a group selling up their homes and then not being able to acquire a passage, n.d.

P.H.A. 1059 Colonel Wyndham's assistance to emigration

Poster advertising free emigration to Upper Canada or Australia for tenants and labourers on Colonel Wyndham's Irish estates, now out of lease or to become so within five years, 8 June 1838.

P.H.A. 1060 Land purchase in Australia, export of horses to Australia

Rough draft of a letter from Col. Wyndham seeking a purchase of 1000 acres of good land in Sydney or Van Diemen's Land for a good young man he is sending out with a small allowance, [1838].

Thomas Blair (Brighton) to [Col. Wyndham], 21 Dec. 1841: Wyndham's interest in his son who went to Australia years before and who would like to purchase one of Lord Egremont's horses.

R. Davis (London) to Rev. A. Netherby, 8 Nov. 1844: emigration to Jamaica, with a note on an Australian colony as 'a very desirable field for emigrants'.

P.H.A. 1063 Emigration expenditure per Rev. T. Sockett, 1838-43

Emigration expenses paid for Rev. T. Sockett and Col. G. Wyndham totalling £280.16.1, [1844].

Small account book 'Payment for Col. Wyndham beginning July 1 1843'.

P.H.A. 1066 Emigration expenditure per Rev. T. Sockett, 1838-43

Small account book 'Accounts between Colonel G. Wyndham and T. Sockett', including entries for emigration to Australia, 1838-43.

P.H.A. 1067 Emigration to South Australia of the Ayliffe Family of Bovey Tracey in 1838

Note: 'Waddell. Freight of stock & difference of passage £220.0.0'.

Receipt by Waddell for cheque for £220 from Rev. T. Sockett, [1838].

Parts of two bills for £106.12.8 and £94.15.2 for agricultural machinery, [1838]

Bills and receipts.

Col. G. Wyndham to Rev. T. Sockett, n.d.: Mr Mitchell; wishes to send out full powers to Capt. Bagot to take possession of his concerns in South Australia; Brydone must make a return of stock purchased.

Ayliffe to Davis, 7 April 1838: ironmonger's bill for domestic articles totalling £9.5.7.

Hugh Collander to T.H. Ayliffe, 10 April 1838: sending shoes and a copy of a bill for £20.5.0 on behalf of Col. Wyndham.

James Waddell to Rev. T. Sockett, 2 May 1838: passages provided for emigrants sponsored by Col. Wyndham.

Samuel Tull (London) to J.W. Brydone, 10 May 1838: bill for rope, sacks etc. for £6.7.9.

Bill to J.W. Brydone for medicines for £3.15.6, 14 May 1838.

Bill to Rev. T. Sockett for agricultural implements for £90.14.8, 15 May 1838.

South Australian Commissioners bill for £94.

Bill and receipts for cooking pots etc. for £10.8.6, 17 May 1838.

G. Ayliffe (Plymouth) to W. Chudleigh (Bovey Tracey), 19 May 1838: preparations for departure; short of money.

Bill for clothing for £11.18.6, 22 May 1838.

Receipt for £94 as the difference between the intermediate and steerage passages for the Ayliffe family, 22 May 1838.

Bill to Col. G. Wyndham for a harness for £3.3.6, 23 May 1838.

G. Ayliffe (Plymouth) to ?, 27 May 1838: vessel will not sail until Monday week and money will not last till then.

T.H. Ayliffe to ?, 28 May 1838: only £1 left and ship does not sail for two weeks; without assistance family must sink.

W. Chudleigh to Col. G. Wyndham, 8 June 1838: appealing for help for Mr Ayliffe; has tried to alleviate their position.

T.H. Ayliffe (Plymouth) to W. Chudleigh, 9 June 1838: ship has arrived; financial difficulties; the last letter he will write in England.

W. Chudleigh to Col. G. Wyndham, 26 June 1838: relief for the Ayliffes, with a copy of their reply.

W. Chudleigh to Rev. T. Sockett, 29 June 1838: particulars of his aid to Ayliffe.

Col. G. Wyndham (Ennis) to Rev. T. Sockett, 2 July 1838: account of the young men is not encouraging.

Col. G. Wyndham to Rev. T. Sockett, 4 July 1838: sends a letter from Chudleigh and his reply.

Draft of a letter to Col. G. Wyndham referring to the financial difficulties of the Ayliffes, 5 July 1838. (incomplete)

W. Chudley to Rev. T. Sockett, 8 July 1838: payments to Ayliffe; his daughter Mrs Marten remains but is in great difficulty.

[Rev. T. Sockett] (St Albans) to Col. G. Wyndham, 13 July 1838: much vexed by Chudleigh's foolish impatience although he acted from kindness.

J. Waddell (London) to Rev. T. Sockett, 21 Aug. 1838: charges for extra baggage; purchase of land in Australia.

J. Waddell to Rev. T. Sockett, 7 Nov. 1838: two more ships for the South Australian trade.

? (O'Halloran Hill, SA) to F. Mitchell, 1 Feb. 1839: regrets that Wyndham's agent is in such a difficult financial position; Ayliffe's insinuations as to his honesty.

T.H. Ayliffe (Adelaide) to Col. G. Wyndham, 1 Feb. 1841: thanks for arrangements made for him; stock is not sufficient to enable him to be freed of his generosity; needs more capital.

Annie Hankey Smith (London) to [Rev. T. Sockett], 18 Sept. 1841: uneasy about her daughter and her husband Frederick Mitchell and their family; inquires if Col. Wyndham has accepted his resignation.

Annie Hankey Smith to [Rev. T. Sockett], 23 Sept. 1841: surprised to hear that Mitchell has proved unsatisfactory; has heard accounts of the sufferings of the colony.

Rev. T. Sockett to [Annie Hankey Smith], n.d.: Mitchell had wished to resign; Col. Wyndham did not ask him to go to South Australia.

Col. G. Wyndham to Rev. T. Sockett, n.d.: Mitchell has a section at Adelaide; Wyndham has no confidence in him; wishes to send out full powers to Capt. Bagot so that he might take possession of his concerns.

P.H.A. 1068 Lists and accounts

Gauteron (London) to Col. G. Wyndham, 20 Sept. 1838: asks to be sent to Australia to work his land there. (In French)

Rev. T. Sockett to ?, 5 Nov. 1838: Col. Wyndham has succeeded to a large part of the property of Lord Egremont; he wishes to continue to support the Petworth Emigration Committee; has bought land in South Australia and sent a large party there; he will encourage people on his Irish estate to emigrate to Upper Canada or Australia.

P.H.A. 1071 Australia, 1840-47

Col. G. Wyndham (Bracknell, Berks.) to Rev. T. Sockett, 16 June 1840: additional stock for his property on the Hunter River.

Col. G. Wyndham to J.W. Brydone, 29 Nov. 1840: regrets actions over land in Australia; writing to Bagot about it as he may wish to invest there.

Lachlan & Co. (London) to Col. G. Wyndham, 29 March 1841: has a suitable vessel for sending cattle to Australia.

Loughnan & Hughes (London) to Col. G. Wyndham, 9 July 1841: good prices for South Australian wools at the sales; current wool prices.

H.M. Lefroy (Farnham) to Col. G. Wyndham, 6 June 1845: sends a paper with suggestions for a better land system in Australia.

Capt. John Hart (Adelaide) to [Col. G. Wyndham], 6 Jan. 1847: unable to procure black swans; five deer to be distributed; Australian Mining Company has missed the area of the present Burra Burra Mine; a large new copper deposit on Yorke Peninsula.

Note to Rev. T. Sockett on the number of people sent to Australia, n.d.

P.H.A. 1072 Letters from the Ayliffe Family in South Australia, 1859-61

Henry Ayliffe (Adelaide) to Lord Leconfield, 14 July 1859: seeks a professional government appointment in the colony.

Elizabeth Ayliffe (Adelaide) to Lord Leconfield, 28 Oct. 1859: thanks for past favours; requests that Leconfield continue the allowance for a few more years or she will be destitute; has a large family to bring up.

Henry Ayliffe (Adelaide) to Lord Leconfield, 14 Dec. 1859: thanks for unexpected kindness; despite poor conditions in the colony he has almost eliminated his liabilities.

J. Ayliffe (Stockport, SA) to Lord Leconfield, 15 Feb. 1860: hampered by a large family, dry seasons and a crippled arm; needs £200 or £300 to be independent.

H. Ayliffe (Adelaide) to Lord Leconfield, 16 April 1861: mineral wealth of Yorke Peninsula would be a good investment; offers to handle the shares as his agent; Wallaroo Cooper Mines.

T.H. Ayliffe (Stockport, SA) to Lord Leconfield, 27 April 1861: seeks help in purchasing a team of bullocks and a couple of cows so that he can support his family.

H. Ayliffe (Adelaide) to Lord Leconfield, 22 June 1861: a conspiracy against him; needs £120 to cover all liabilities; wishes to move to another colony.

Elizabeth Ayliffe to Lord Leconfield, 17 Aug.: thanks for annuity which will enable her to maintain a respectable position in society and educate her sons; family news.

T.H. Ayliffe (Adelaide) to Lord Leconfield, 25 ? 1861: thanks for Leconfield's generosity to his mother; seeks money to purchase a small station to enable him to support her.

## **Maps and drawings**

P.H.A. 3433

Emanuel Bowen. Asia according to the latest discoveries and observations communicated to the Royal Society at London and the Royal Academy at Paris, 1749. 24½" x 38".

P.H.A. 3463

Rev. John Blair. India and the East Indies, 1773. 16¾" x 22¼".

P.H.A. 3479

Eastern Hemisphere, marking Captain Cook's discoveries, n.d. 42" x 37½".

P.H.A. 3492

The district of Adelaide, South Australia, as divided into county sections from the trigonometrical surveys of Colonel Light late Surveyor General, [London], John Arrowsmith, 1839. 24" x 20½".

The special survey of the Hutt River copied from a sketch drawn by John McDouall Stuart, Adelaide, 1842. 37" x 18½".

P.H.A. 3496

Photograph of the Leconwick World map at Alnwick Castle, c. 1616.