

AUSTRALIAN JOINT COPYING PROJECT

BROWN FAMILY

Papers, 1829-99

Reels M858-63

**Lady Jean Redcliffe-Maud
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**National Library of Australia
State Library of New South Wales**

Filmed: 1977-78

BROWN FAMILY

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE

Robert Brown (1795-1847) was born in Ayrshire, Scotland, and trained as a Calvinist minister. He was ordained in 1823 and in the same year became a minister at Crumnock, Ayrshire, where he remained for the rest of his life. In 1826 he married Margaret Anderson. They had four children: Jane Brown (b. 1827), Margaret (Maggie) Brown (b. 1830), Jessie Brown (b. 1833) and James Brown (b. 1835).

After her husband's death in 1847, Margaret Brown moved to a house in Hill Street, Glasgow, where she took in lodgers. Among the first were James Hoey (b. 1832) and his brother, Thomas Hoey. The Brown Family began to disperse, with James Brown training as a Presbyterian minister and eventually settling in Paisley. Jane Brown was later to be a governess in Germany. Maggie Brown became engaged to James Hoey in 1852. News of the Victorian gold rushes led James and Thomas Hoey, their sister Catherine Buckie, and their brothers-in-law John Buckie and Andrew Hamilton, to leave Scotland. The Hoey's and Buckie's sailed on the SS *Birmingham*, which reached Melbourne in October 1852, and Hamilton, who was a widower, followed two months later on the SS *Cleopatra*.

James and Thomas Hoey went to Ballarat, while the Buckie's and Hamilton stayed in Melbourne. In September 1854 Maggie Brown arrived on the SS *Great Britain* and in the same month she married James Hoey. Their son Robert was born in 1855 and in the same year they moved to Eagle Hawk near Bendigo. Maggie had been in poor health even before she left home and her condition worsened in Australia. In 1859 Jane Brown decided to join her in Victoria and she sailed to Melbourne on the SS *Royal Charter*. She arrived in time to see her sister, but three months later Maggie Brown died.

Jane Brown settled in Melbourne and married Andrew Hamilton in 1860. In 1863 they moved to Eagle Hawk, where Jane later opened a school. James Hoey subsequently married Mary Mortley and they moved to New Zealand, but she died in childbirth. James himself died at Bendigo in 1865, followed by Tom Hoey in 1867 and Andrew Hamilton in 1869. Jane Hamilton and her two children returned to Scotland in 1870. Her mother Margaret Brown, the recipient of many of the family letters, died in the same year. Jane's son, John Hamilton, eventually became a schoolteacher. Jane Hamilton died in 1895.

Reference: Alison Weir. *A family history for the Brown-Hamilton letters*, n.d.

The papers of the Brown Family are now held in the National Library of Scotland, George IV Bridge, Edinburgh, EH1 1EW.

BROWN FAMILY

The correspondence and other papers are in two chronological sequences, the first being papers in the possession of Lady Redcliffe-Maud and the second those in the possession of Mrs Alison Weir.

The great bulk of the correspondence was written by and to members of the Brown Family of Glasgow, but there are also letters from a small number of friends in Britain, Germany, Australia and New Zealand. The letters mostly deal with the births, marriages and deaths of family members, their work and other activities, their travels, and news of their relatives and friends. In addition, some of the letters provide quite a detailed picture of life in Victoria at the time of the gold rushes and particularly social conditions in Melbourne, Bendigo and, to a lesser extent, Ballarat. The principal Australian correspondents were James Hoey, his brother Thomas Hoey and his wife Maggie Brown, and also Maggie's sister Jane Brown and her husband Andrew Hamilton.

Reel M858

Correspondence of the Brown Family, 1841-58.

The letters were mostly addressed to Margaret Brown, her daughters Maggie, Jane and Jessie Brown, and her son James Brown. The correspondents include James Hoey (Ballarat, Melbourne, Bendigo), Maggie Hoey née Brown (on board SS *Great Britain*, Melbourne, Bendigo), Jane Brown (Edinburgh, Hildesheim), James Brown (Edinburgh), Jessie Brown, Margaret Brown (Glasgow), Thomas Hoey (Melbourne), Kate Scott and Andrew Hamilton (Glasgow).

In addition to the letters, there is a log of the *Royal Charter*, 22 May – 21 July [1859], the ship on which Jane Brown sailed to Australia.

Reel M859

Correspondence of the Brown Family, 1858-60.

The letters were mostly written to Jane Brown or her mother Margaret Brown; a few were written to her Jane's sisters Maggie Hoey and Jessie Stewart and her brother James Brown. The correspondents include Maggie Hoey (Bendigo), James Hoey (Bendigo, Melbourne), Margaret Brown (Glasgow), Jane Brown (Hildesheim, Liverpool, Bendigo), Jessie Stewart née Brown, James Brown (Glasgow, London), Thomas Hoey (Bendigo), Jane Frew (Birkbank), Andrew Hamilton (Melbourne), E. Raphael (Sale) and Kate Scott.

Reel M860

Correspondence of the Brown Family, 1860-64

The letters were mostly written to Jane Hamilton or her mother Margaret Brown; a few are addressed to Jane's sister Jessie Stewart. The correspondents include Jane Hamilton nee Brown (Melbourne), Andrew Hamilton (Melbourne), Margaret Brown (Paisley), Jessie Stewart (Glasgow), William Stewart (Glasgow, Paisley), James Hoey (Bendigo, Dunedin), Maggie Hoey (Melbourne), Kate

Brown née Scott (Paisley), Jane Frew (Glasgow) and Helen Stuart (Turakina, New Zealand). Maggie Hoey was the daughter of James and Maggie Hoey.

Reel M861

Correspondence of the Brown Family, 1864-99

The letters were nearly all written to Jane Hamilton or her mother Margaret Brown. The correspondents include Jane Hamilton (Bendigo), Andrew Hamilton (Melbourne) James Brown (Paisley, Damascus), Margaret Brown (Paisley), Kate Brown, Jane Frew (Cardross, Paisley), Joseph Thomson (Melbourne), Robert Hoey (Melbourne, Paisley, Suva, Sydney), William Stewart (Paisley), Mary Howat (Melbourne) and Maggie Hoey.

Reel M862

Correspondence of the Brown Family, 1829-62

The early letters are addressed to various members of the Brown Family, including Margaret Brown and her children James Brown, Maggie Brown, Jane Brown and Jessie Brown. The correspondents include Margaret Brown (Glasgow), Jane Stewart (Glasgow), Maggie Brown (Glasgow, Melbourne, Bendigo), James Hoey (Ballarat, Melbourne, Bendigo), Jane Frew (Dunoon), James Brown (London, Paisley, Liverpool), Kate Brown, Jessie Brown, Sophie Steinhardt (Hildesheim), Jane Brown (Bendigo), Kate Scott, Jessie Stewart and William Stewart (Glasgow).

Reel M863

Correspondence, 1862-95

The letters were nearly all written to Jane Hamilton or her mother Margaret Brown. The correspondents include Kate Brown (Paisley), James Brown (Paisley), Jessie Stewart, Jane Hamilton (Bendigo), Margaret Brown (Paisley), James Hoey (Dunedin, Bendigo), William Stewart (Paisley), Andrew Hamilton (Bendigo), Jane Frew (Cardross, Joseph Thomson (Melbourne), Maggie Hoey (Bendigo), Hugh Grainger (Mundooran, NSW), Robert Hoey (Glasgow), John Hamilton, H. Allan (Melbourne) and John Hamilton (London).