

A Brief Introduction to the Records

Some Notes on the Holdings of the Queensland State Archives

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In one of Brisbane's oldest buildings, the former State Stores building, in William Street, there is a growing mass of old paper, being accumulated from government departments, local court houses in every corner of the State, shire and other local government bodies, and even from pastoral stations and the offices of old-established firms and companies. This is the State Archives, which include such things as copies of all despatches written by the various Governors of Queensland from Sir George Ferguson Bowen in 1859 to Sir Herbert Chermiside in 1904; plans of all the buildings that made up the Moreton Bay Convict Settlement in the 1830s; sets of run registers relating to pastoral holdings taken up in the various parts of Queensland from the 1840s to the 1930s; a collection of more than 5,000 maps relating to Queensland and Papua; and many other series and sub-collections. There is so much material, indeed, that any attempt to summarise the main holdings (even through the use of the briefest descriptions) would give but an incomplete and unbalanced picture.

None of the materials mentioned in the paragraph above had been brought into the Archives before November 1959. Five years ago, indeed, Queensland had made less progress than any other Australian State in collecting together records which had been accumulated in Government Departments and which might now be available to assist research workers whose interests lie in the history of Queensland. Some few records had been brought in from country centres and deposited with the Oxley Memorial Library pending the establishment of an official archives institution. Certain other records were available at the Oxley because their official custodians had removed them from their series and presented them to the Oxley. (The problem involved in this type of transaction is the replacing of these items in their correct place once the whole series is transferred to the Archives.) By and large, however, the records of officialdom, current, semi-current and long since obsolete, were lying untended and uncared for in the departments which had created them.

This was the position. What was the potential? I have never doubted that Queensland could have, in its State Archives, the best archives service in Australia. To begin with, the raw material is there. As far as State and colonial records of *Queensland* are concerned, we stand a much better chance than any other State of achieving a complete collection. We were not established as a separate colony until 1859. At that date, or within the next twelve months, Queensland had to establish all the branches of government — executive, legislative and judiciary. This does not overlook the fact that, before that date, there were some executive and some judiciary functions being carried out in what is now Queensland. However, it was not until 10 December 1859 that these were executed in the name of the Queen in right of her new colony of Queensland. And from that date, or shortly after, all the major functions of government had to be executed, and the records created in the process had to be compiled and preserved.

This late start on Queensland's part did much to ensure that, once we got going, we would preserve a full set of whatever documents really mattered. Queensland could and did benefit from the experience of the other Colonies in records-keeping. Today we can point in the Archives to series after series of records which begin in December 1859, or at the latest some time in 1860, and are complete from the starting date.

I have seldom encountered any difficulty in persuading departments to hand over obsolete, and even semi-current, records to the Archives. My difficulty has usually been quite the reverse. I have had, and am still having, the greatest possible difficulty in finding accommodation for the proper housing of the records. There are several very important accumulations of records which I should love to be able to arrange to transfer to the Archives at the moment, but accommodation problems constitute a considerable hurdle.

When I came from one of the Southern States to take up duties as Archivist in Queensland, I expected that I should have a great deal of difficulty in locating even a representative set of papers of the various Government Departments. I expected to find that a great many of the Departments had thrown out a great deal of material. If I were successful in bringing together the principal in-letter and out-letter series of a few of the major Departments, I would, I thought, be content.

However, my experience has been quite different from this, and far more encouraging. Again and again I have found documentation complete, or at least have found that so much exists that one can at least list the series or parts of series that are missing. It seems that the in-letter and out-letter series are practically complete for the following major departments:—

Colonial Secretary's Office
Justice Department (formerly Crown Law Office, and
then Attorney-General's Department)
Education Department
Survey Office
Lands Department
Works Department
Treasury

Correspondence records form by far the greater proportion of records of the Colonial Secretary's Office.¹ The Office was charged with responsibility for the administration of native affairs, the supervision of immigration, the conduct of the Agent-General's Office, the oversight of the police, the prevention of the kidnapping of Pacific Islanders brought to Queensland to labour mainly on the sugar plantations, and the satisfactory working of the electoral system. For the first few years the Colonial Secretary was charged with responsibility for Lands and Works matters as well; and until 1875 he was responsible for the administration of education, though there was a Board of Education charged with responsibility for the immediate oversight of the system. Up till

the turn of the century, the Colonial Secretary was responsible for administering petty sessions matters, and at various times he was the Minister of the Crown whose duties included the supervision of local government.

While the Colony was small, the normal system for filing inward letters by annual single number was adequate. When matters of state assumed larger proportions, and the Colonial Secretary found his desk piled high with telegrams on major questions, the system began to break down. Thus, apart from the general in-letter

series, there are, for instance, series relating to:—

- a. The prosecution arising out of the kidnapping of Pacific islanders by those sailing in the ship *Hopeful*, 1884.
- b. The Shearers' Strike, 1891.
- c. The annexation of New Guinea and the administration of the Protectorate, 1874-88.
- d. Despatches from the Agent-General in London, 1869-95.

Notes of conversation with Lord Derby at an interview on 16th April 1883

On shaking hands Lord Derby remarked that he had expected to see me in consequence of the event that had taken place at New Guinea and he asked if I had received any explanation of the reasons that had influenced the Government of Queensland in taking the steps. I produced the cablegram received this morning from the Colonial Secretary which Lord Derby copied. I offered to leave it, but he declined to keep it - he asked if I had any further explanation, and I suggested that my Government had probably taken action on some information that another Government was preparing to take possession of the Island and I pointed out to his Lordship that such an event would be most disastrous to all the Australasian Colonies but more particularly to Queensland as being nearest to New Guinea - that if the Island should fall into the hands of one of the great military powers of Europe an impregnable "place of arms" could easily be formed which would dominate Torres Straits and be a perpetual menace to the Colonies but more particularly to Queensland whose coast is almost

within

within right of New Guinea - that such an event would necessitate a constant state of preparedness on all the Colonies and inflict a grievous burden on the young Communities, while if a penal settlement were formed so near to the Queensland Coast constant vigilance would be required to prevent the Colony from being overrun by criminals of the very worst type, as to some extent is the case at present even from so distant an Island as New Caledonia. Lord Derby remarked that annexation of territory was apt to continue as long as there remained anything beyond to annex, and I replied that the remark hardly applied to New Guinea which was separated from other Islands by a considerable extent of Ocean - he then said "it is understood that in case of the annexation being completed no responsibility or expense should attach to the Mother Country beyond the obligation of defending against foreign aggression" - to this I decidedly assented - on my taking leave his Lordship said that the Cabinet would doubtless wish to arrange the matter in accordance with the wishes of the Colonies - I thanked his Lordship and withdrew.

Thomas Archer
A. G.

Notes written by Thomas Archer, Queensland Agent-General, on his interview with Lord Derby respecting Queensland's annexation of British New Guinea, 1883.

One of the most exciting stories contained in all these special series relates to the annexation of Eastern New Guinea by our Premier, Sir Thomas McIlwraith, in 1883. Included amongst the papers is the telegram as sent by McIlwraith from Kilkivan (in his own electorate of Mulgrave) instructing the Under Colonial Secretary to send a telegram to H. M. Chester, the Police Magistrate at Cooktown to instruct him to

. . . proceed to New Guinea and take possession in the Queen's name. Let him take the Pearl [steamship] and a sufficient number of men and arms to secure his safety . . .

This was dated 19 Mar 1883. Two days later he said in another telegram to the Under Colonial Secretary:—"The details of our operations do not divulge to the press." In reply to a query from the Under Colonial Secretary as to whether he intended to inform the Secretary of State as to his action, he replied:—"I intend to advise the Imperial Government but not before I am advised that Chester has left Thursday Island." McIlwraith believed intensely in the effectiveness of the *fait accompli*. Despite all this, later in 1883 the British Government refused to confirm the action he had taken.

The Colonial Secretary's Office changed its name to Home Secretary's Office in 1896, and about this time a separate establishment for the official transactions of the Premier was brought into being under the title of Chief Secretary's Office. From about this time the Home Secretary became more and more preoccupied with matters concerning public health, and this tendency has continued until the present day, when the Department is known simply as the Department of Health.

The records of the Immigration Department are far from complete, and it is not very difficult to discover reasons for this. The old building now occupied by the Archives was the depot for migrants from about 1846 till 1887, when the new migration depot (Yungaba) was opened at Kangaroo Point, South Brisbane. The office of the Immigration Agent was removed to Kangaroo Point along with the Depot, but the 1893 flood did damage that has left its mark on the Immigration Department's records to this day. The flood carried away all the fences around the building, and the water filled the cellars, where some records were kept, including passenger lists of early migrant ships. In the clean-up that followed, many reams of limp, sodden paper were laboriously unfolded, and the information on them was transcribed into volumes. Thereupon, the originals were destroyed. Some originals were in such bad condition that they could not be transcribed. Others were simply carried away in the flood. The result is that, prior to the 1870s, we have no original passenger lists. The records of land order warrants do, in some cases, provide us with information relating to migrants, but these are badly organised, in several volumes which are distinguished the one from the other in an ill-defined and inconsistent way, and of course they are not at all complete themselves.

The Governor's Office record group is fairly complete, covering the period 1859 to about 1910, although there is a serious gap in the duplicate despatches from the Secretary of State for the Colonies. Our set of these runs from 1859-70; beyond that date, they are still in departmental custody. Apart from these, however, there are sets of both the ordinary numbered series of despatches, those marked "Secret" and those marked "Confidential", and this applies to both the inward and the outward ones.

The records of the Treasury are important, not only for the obvious reason that they provide information on public finance, trade and the economy generally, but also because of the sub-departments which were the Treasurer's responsibility. He has always been the Minister responsible for harbours and marine matters, and one consults the Treasury Records for information on

shipwrecks and other marine accidents. The Hydraulic Engineer was, before the creation of an Irrigation and Water Supply Department, responsible to the Treasurer. In the early days the Treasury collected, direct, the rents on pastoral runs. Treasury correspondence on this subject in the period 1860-3 is often the only information we have on the transfers, etc. of pastoral runs. Our Treasury correspondence runs from 1860-1928, with registers and indexes. We also have ledgers in which officers of this Department entered the payment of rent on runs (1860-1906) and Minutes of the Executive Council referred for attention to the Treasurer (1859-1947).

The oldest records in the Archives are those of H.M. General Hospital, Moreton Bay. The earliest of these is a register listing medicines expended, requisitions, admissions to hospital, and deaths, together with copies of outward letters and reports of surveys into hospital stores, bedding, etc. It covers the period 25 Sep 1825—24 Nov 1829. Thus, though we were the last of the six Colonies of Australia to be given separate government, and therefore we often think of ourselves as the youngest of the Australian States, some of our state archives are amongst the oldest in Australia; indeed, only New South Wales and Tasmania could have older state archives than ours.

The rest of the series of which this register forms a part runs from 1 Jul 1832 to 31 Jul 1834 and from 1 June 1842 to 31 Dec 1844, giving similar information and interesting additional material. This includes a daily register showing the numbers each of men, women and children, of both the military and convict inhabitants, sick in hospital and outpatients, tallied against the total numbers of these persons in the Settlement.

The above three volumes, together with registers of cases and treatment covering the period 8 Dec 1831—26 Oct 1850, a register of out-patients treated from 25 Mar 1829 to 30 May 1832, and a letterbook, 7 Nov 1863—3 Jul 1848, tell a macabre tale of suffering during the convict period. One reads of the death of young Patrick Grady (aged 23) on 23 Oct 1828. The return of deaths show him as the first to die from whipping (termed "flagellatio").

Captain Logan went to Sydney in October 1828. When he returned offences such as absconding, which had hitherto brought a penalty of 50 lashes, were rewarded with 200 — in the year 1828 there were more than 50 admissions to hospital after flagellatio.²

During the same year there were epidemics of trachoma and dysentery.

Interesting incidental information may also be gleaned from these records. Daily registers of the weather, detailing among other things the temperature in the morning, at noon and in the evening, were kept, and we still have these records for the period 1 Apr—31 Oct 1829, and 1 Jul 1832—31 Dec 1844.

The Justice Department's records begin in May 1857, when the first N.S.W. Supreme Court Judge (Mr. Justice Milford) was sent to Moreton Bay. Crown Solicitor's and Crown Prosecutor's letters begin in 1857, but the main series of Crown Law Office correspondence does not begin until 1859. The depositions and findings in Coroners' Inquests are apparently complete from 1859 to the present day. An examination of some of these files enables us to open up pages which recount some of the great tragedies of Queensland's history. Amongst those for 1867, for instance, are the depositions in the enquiry into the deaths of Patrick Cahill and John Power, the two constables in the Clermont Gold Escort, who were found dead at their camping place on the edge of the Mackenzie River, not far from the Bedford Arms Inn. The curious reader can recapture something of the sensation that was caused when the name of the man arrested for their murder

was announced — it was Thomas John Griffin, Police Magistrate of Clermont, and Gold Commissioner for the Clermont field. Griffin was executed the following year, at Rockhampton. His conduct both before and after the crime was such that a verdict of insanity might well have been a fairer one than wilful murder.

The Justice Department's records include depositions and associated papers in criminal cases heard in the Supreme Court in Brisbane, and in Circuit Courts in Rockhampton and all places in southern Queensland that were chosen as sites for Circuit Court sittings. These date from the beginning of Supreme Court sittings in what is now Queensland, up to 1918. Some of the files are remarkable for their enclosures. In the Circuit Court case *Rex v. John Gillard*, for instance, heard at Maryborough on 5 Mar 1863, there have been preserved certain papers in which are wrapped five £1 notes drawn on the Australian Joint Stock Bank, Brisbane, one five shillings piece, one half-crown, two single shillings and one sixpence. The coins were minted at various dates from 1834 to 1858, though none of the inscriptions on the half-crown is legible.

These notes and coins came to be in the depositions because of the following circumstances. On 3 August 1862 a bullock driver named James Waters was staying at the Commercial Hotel in Rockhampton. The bedrooms were all taken up, so Waters was given an improvised bed on the sofa in a parlour. He had £5/10/0 in notes and silver in his trousers pocket when he went to bed. About one a.m., he thought he heard a noise in the room. He called for a man sleeping in an adjacent room to bring a light, and when one was brought it was discovered that John Gillard was standing in the room. Waters discovered that his trousers had been moved from one part of the parlour to another, and that the £5/10/0 was missing. Gillard, when asked what he was doing in the room, said he had "come to get a nobbler". £5 in notes was picked up in a corner of the room, and could presumably have been thrown there when the light was brought, the thief being anxious to dispose of any incriminating evidence before he was searched. On the other hand, of course, Waters might have dropped it there accidentally when he was preparing for bed. The 10/- in silver was found on Gillard's person when a constable was summoned. The 2/6, the 6d., and the two single shillings were in his pockets. The 5/- was found concealed inside the waist band of his trousers. In court afterwards, the complainant had some difficulty identifying the 5/- as his, for it had (and still has) some deep scratches on it, across the effigy of Queen Victoria. In all, the case against Gillard seemed to be weak, but he was committed for trial at the Rockhampton sittings of the Circuit Court on 4 Sep 1862. James Waters and others entered into recognizances to give evidence. When the case came up for trial, however, Waters did not show up. So the case was remanded to the next sittings (in Maryborough on 5 Mar 1863). Again Waters did not show up, so he forfeited his recognizance (£40), and of course he lost the £5 in notes that was almost certainly his, as well as the 10/- in silver which may have belonged either to Gillard or to Waters, depending on who was telling the truth. The Crown did not feel justified in handing over the 10/- to Gillard (the case against him being dismissed) and certainly the £5 was not Gillard's, for he made no claim to it whatever. Thus the coins and notes were left wrapped up in the depositions, for want of something better to do with them, and there they remain to this day.

The general correspondence of the Justice Department is arranged in a similar way to that of the other major departments and, as with the others, so with Justice, one can expect to find occasionally special "subject" series of correspondence, arising when the pressures of public business, or the urgency or critical

nature of events, caused such a strain on bureaucracy that the general filing system could no longer accommodate current paperwork. This happened when the Shearers' Strike took place in 1891. Several sub-series were created, such as one relating to the refusal of "free" (i.e., non-Union) labourers to contribute to the Strike Fund, one relating to the despatch of members of the Volunteer Defence Force to Barcaldine, and one in which are contained depositions in cases against the unionists, but on which depositions the Crown Law Officers have written "No true bill" (i.e., the Crown declines to prosecute). Amongst the many important memorabilia which have been preserved with these records are copies of shearing agreements signed by some of the shearers, copies of the By-laws of the Queensland Shearers' Union, and many other such objects. Many of the great constitutional conflicts which have now taken their place in Queensland's history are documented in the Justice records in the Archives. The referendum on the abolition of the Legislative Council, the Supreme Court sensation that was created when the judges refused in 1917 to allow Thomas William McCawley to take his oath as a member of the bench, though he held a commission as a justice of the Court; the Mooraberrie cattle case; and a host of other matters are fully recorded in briefs, depositions, affidavits, letters, commissions, newspaper cuttings and other records.

Correspondence records are not, of course, the only ones which provide valuable information. One of our most useful classes of records are the registers of pastoral holdings ("run registers"). These begin in 1848 and, though they do not provide a complete coverage, they become more complete as the 19th century progresses. To begin with, they belong to the provenance "Crown Lands Office" (i.e., the office of the Chief Commissioner for Crown Lands). From about 1868, however, the Department of Public Lands (now known as the Department of Lands) took over. They are arranged by Pastoral District, and the most recent of them trace ownership of pastoral holdings down to about 1944. I have often been asked why the first entries in the register for the Kennedy District (North Queensland, the area extending from Mackay to about Cardwell, and inland to about Pentland) were made at 6 a.m. on 1 Jan 1861. The story behind the very early start for business at the office of the Commissioner for Crown Lands for the Kennedy district on New Year's Day, 1861, is told in Geoffrey Bolton's book.³

The story as told by Bolton is that Dalrymple, foreseeing a rush to occupy the new country in the Kennedy district (which was to be open for pastoral occupation on 1 Jan 1861) arranged a Hogmanay party at his house on New Year's Eve, 1860, and invited such potential pastoralists as Philip Sellheim and Ernest Henry to be present. As soon as they could decently claim that the New Year had started (or perhaps as soon as they were sober enough!) they began laying claims to the pastoral runs they had previously chosen for themselves.

This is borne out by the run registers. In addition to Ernest Henry and Sellheim, Hugh Robison, Edward Wood and Charles Walter Toussaint were apparently among the guests, for they registered claims to runs at 6 a.m. as well. Not invited to the party, but at the office by the normal starting time for public servants, were William Alfred Ross, John Melton Black (Robert Towns's North Queensland agent), Peter Longshaw, Robert Inman and Frederick Hodgson. These people registered claims at 9 a.m. What they said when they found that Dalrymple, by starting business at the unconventional hour of 6 a.m., had let his friends have first choice of the pastoral country so opened up, is not recorded.

Typical parts to a run register entry include the name and address of the applicant, the date (and sometimes the time) on

which the application was received, the name of the run, the estimated area (distinguishing between what was available for pastoral purposes, and what was not), the boundaries, the names of parties to whom the run was transferred over the years, and the subsequent fate of the country. Under the latter head, I would classify such entries as "All selected [i.e., broken up into smaller selections, as opposed to pastoral holdings]," "See new register, folio —," "Notification of Land Board's order confirming the division of the consolidated holding —", and so on.

The records of the Survey Office begin when it was merely the Moreton Bay Branch Office of the N.S.W. Surveyor-General's Department (1844 is the date of our first District Survey Office letterbook). After Queensland was created a separate colony, A. C. Gregory was, for a few years, both Surveyor-General and Chief Commissioner for Crown Lands. The letters he received in either capacity are intermingled in the one series. There is a distinction, however, in the outward letters. Quite separate letter-books were maintained for the Crown Lands Office and the Survey Office.

The records of the Survey Office are often full of interest and some of them show something of the importance of a District

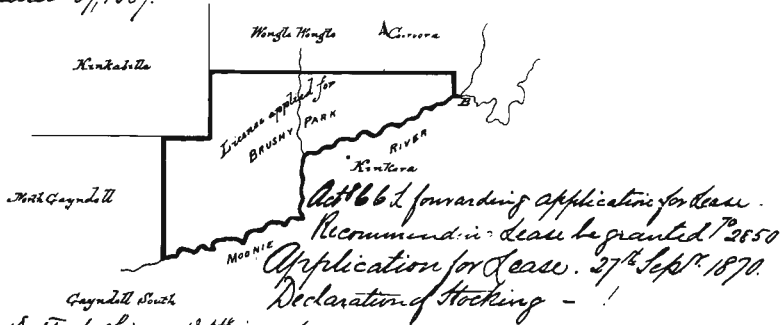
11
 Application No 11 }
 Commission No 4/3 }
 Patrick Brennan }
 of P. Brennan. }
 Name of Run }
 'Brushy Park'
 Estimated Area
 Available for Pastoral purposes 25. Square Miles 27 1/2 29,769
 Unavailable for do do 25. do do 55
 50. 52 in all

Description

Commencing at a tree marked B on the North bank of the Moonie Creek and bounded on the South by the Moonie Creek till it strikes the South Eastern Corner of 'North Gayndell'; thence bounded on the West by the Eastern boundary of that run; thence bounded on the North by the Southern boundary of Mr Brennan's 'Kinkupilla' and 'Wangle' runs till it reaches a point due North from the starting point; thence bounded on the East by a line of Campbells running due South to the Commencing point.

The Land applied for is shown in the sketch.

5th paid 69/1367.



662 found appn for license & left issue for
 case subject to final adjustment of boundaries } 67. 340.
 if the same in same locality is completed }
 662 forwarding copy of license 69. 1043
 Date & Number of License 8th January 1871 No 26.

A sample entry from a run register. This particular run was Brushy Park on the Darling Downs.

Surveyor in a pioneering community. At times, he was both town planner and place-names authority. Henry FitzGerald, in writing from the Survey Camp on the Pioneer River on 28 May 1863 stated:—

I have the honor to enclose herewith two plans, one being a design for the new Township for which I beg to propose the name of Alexandra in honour of the Princess of Wales . . . When forwarding the Plan of the River, etc., I shall suggest the boundaries for several Parishes for your approval, meantime I have proposed the name of "Mackay" for a tract on the South side of the River that would include the new Township . . .

The name Mackay, of course, is still with us. Alexandra was not so popular, for Queenslanders, despite the name of their state, were no great royalists.

The first Secretary for Lands and Works was appointed in January 1862, although the records of the office do not begin until April of that year. We have both inward and outward correspondence for the Secretary's office, and this lasts until August 1866, when a fuller separation into Lands Department and Public Works Department took place. The in-letter series for Lands and Works includes many important letters. When the Archives staff was asked to find out as much as possible about the discovery of the site of Townsville, these records were very useful. We found a letter dated 13 September 1864 from J. M. Black and Robert Towns enclosing two sketches of the recently discovered port in Cleveland Bay. These must be the earliest existing maps of the present site of Townsville. In the correspondence, the credit for the discovery of Townsville is given entirely to J. M. Black, and Towns claimed for himself and Black the pre-emptive right to select 640 acres of land for a boiling down establishment.

The letter states in relation to the site for the new town:—

The Settlers in the District of North Kennedy have since its foundation laboured under the most serious disadvantage in the want of a suitable Port to receive their supplies and ship their produce, and the losses sustained by Mr. Black himself and by most other settlers in that District have been most severe, inasmuch as they have been compelled up to this time to ship their produce either by the mouth of the Burdekin River, a place liable at all times to inundation, or by way of Port Denison, a port shut out for several months of the year to the Western District by the flooded nature of the Burdekin River.

The discovery therefore of a Port to avoid these disadvantages is highly important to the interests of that District.

We may mention that Mr. Black has for many months endeavoured to discover a suitable harbour north of the Burdekin River, with a load over the Main Range, and after considerable risk and expense he has at last accomplished, and we now have the honor to hand to the Government the result of the discovery, as shewn in the sketch enclosed.

The Port will be found on inspection suitable to all the wants of the District, having deep water along the Banks of the Creek where vessels can discharge or load well sheltered from prevailing winds: land high and dry and well suited for a township and a road to the Interior available for immediate use.

By the discovery the Upper Burdekin township situated 160 miles from Port Denison is accessible to this Port by the road & a distance of 70 Miles.

The Government decided that 640 acres could be put up for public auction, but that no pre-emptive rights could be granted without the express approval of Parliament.

The Public Works Department records begin immediately after the cessation of the Secretary for Lands and Works Office records. These are practically complete, and although it is stretching things a little to wax lyrical about the records of the Public Works

Department, they contain, nevertheless, information which is often in demand. The most often sought after is information about the construction of public buildings. There is also an important series relating to the foundation and work of divisional boards (i.e., rural local government bodies) from their first establishment in 1879. The Works Department was, from October 1868, the Department to which Goldfields Commissioners reported, and this situation persisted until a separate Mines Office was created. Therefore the Works Department's records provide valuable information on the discovery of goldfields, their utilisation and yield.

Our Education Department records seem to be fairly complete from 1875, when the Department of Public Instruction was created. Prior to this, the Board of General Education carried out the work, but the records we have of the Board's work are not complete. The Education Department records are divided into two separate series prior to 1922, when a third series was added. The two original series are Schools and Various (the word Miscellaneous could have been used just as easily as the word Various). Within the Schools series, there are files for every State school in Queensland, and these are arranged alphabetically by name. The Various files are further subdivided into classifications such as Departmental, Government Departments, Inspections, Mission Schools, Queensland University and Technical Education, and are arranged alphabetically by these classifications. School files are very useful in the compilation of local histories, as in many cases the agitation for a State school was the first local movement in a community, and one can trace the extent to which local co-operation and community spirit has grown by examining records of the sacrifices that parents were prepared to make in order to give their children a good education.

After 1922 the Department began a series of "Personal" (i.e., staff) files for its officers. Up till this time papers relating to individual teachers were placed with the file relating to the school at which the teacher was serving at the time. This made it difficult for any information to be extracted about the career of an individual, and the institution of the "Personal" series is a welcome innovation, at least from the point of view of departmental administration.

Records of the Department of Labour and Industry are of very late date, even allowing for the fact that this is a department which was created in quite recent times. The general correspondence runs from 1949 to 1957. There are files dealing with particular subjects, and ones relating to sub-departments which are, or have been, responsible to the Minister for Labour and Industry, dating from the 1940s. Some of these sub-departments are Weights and Measures, Machinery and Scaffolding, Police and Tourist Bureau. Enquiries have been made as to what has happened to the Department's records prior to the date of the first ones in Archives custody, but it has been difficult to arrive at the truth. It seems probable that either all or some of them have been destroyed.

The records of which I have written so far in this article have been ones housed in the main Archives Building in William Street, Brisbane. We have accommodation also in the Anzac Square Public Buildings (bounded by Adelaide, Edward and Ann Streets) and in the old Lady Bowen Hospital Building in Wickham Terrace. In the Anzac Square repository we have files of departments whose headquarters are located in the same building — principally the Titles Office, the Registrar of Companies and Commercial Acts, and the Public Curator, in addition to certain legal records. The Companies records are potentially valuable for historical purposes, as they refer to all companies which have been "struck off" the register since the register was started in October 1863. The records themselves relate to lists of shareholders, memoranda and articles of association, summaries of

capital, and returns associated with the winding up, etc. The Public Curator records are by and large restricted from public access. They relate to estates administered because of insanity, intestacy and insolvency, and these main series begin in 1873, 1868 and 1857 respectively, long before there was any Public Curator Office as such. The Public Curator has, of course, inherited functions from the Curator of Intestate Estates, the Official Trustee in Insolvency, etc. The Titles Office records at Anzac Square are available to the transferring department only, as all means of access or reference have been retained by the Registrar.

Amongst records held in Lady Bowen House are farm files of the Department of Lands. This is a very large series, the files being arranged by Land Agent's district and sub-arranged by selection number. The various Land Agent's districts are arranged alphabetically. The files themselves only relate to selections taken up since the passing of the Crown Lands Act, 1884, and then only to such selections as are no longer being leased from the Crown — i.e., those selections which have been converted to freehold tenure, or have been abandoned or forfeited, or where the terms of lease have been cancelled and a new selection number has been allotted.

Most of our local government records are also held at Lady Bowen House. We have records from the following:—

- Adavale Shire Council (later Quilpie Shire Council)
- Albert Shire Council
- Barkly Tableland Shire Council (now Mount Isa Shire Council)
- Beenleigh Shire Council
- Barolin Shire Council (now amalgamated with Woongarra Shire Council)
- Bulloo Shire Council
- Burke Shire Council
- Caboolture Shire Council
- Carpentaria Shire Council
- Cloncurry Divisional Board
- Coomera Shire Council
- Dalby Town Council
- Gooburrum Shire Council
- Nerang Shire Council
- Normanton Municipal Council
- Paroo Shire Council
- Pioneer Shire Council
- Quilpie Shire Council
- Wambo Shire Council
- Woongarra Shire Council

There are numerous record groups and series of which I have said nothing in these notes. This must be so, for when one tries to describe an accumulation of well over 20,000 linear feet of public records, nothing short of a series catalogue could hope to list all the constituent parts, and such a catalogue, if it were all-inclusive, would be extremely dull to read. In the notes I have prepared, I have tried to do more than be selective; I have made a deliberate attempt to be impressionistic. I have tried to convey to the reader something of a "feeling" for the records; by quotation and anecdote to give the reader some impression of the usefulness of some of the main series of our records.

Let me underscore the fact that I have not been speaking about books, manuscripts and newspapers in the Oxley Memorial Library — this separate collection, also under the control of the Library Board of Queensland, is rich in printed books and in historical manuscripts, but the State Archives is the repository for the official or public records of the Colony and State of Queensland. The Oxley Memorial Library staff and the State Archives staff work in close collaboration.

In 1963, we in the Archives began work on a reclassification of our holdings. Up till then, records received into our premises were accessioned, and arrangement was by accession order. The re-arrangement project I have described in more detail in another journal.⁴

The reclassification of our records has been undertaken with a view to bringing together all records created by the one authority, irrespective of whether they were transferred to the Archives in 1960 or in more recent years. It also aims at bringing together all the records of similar functions of government. To do this, we classified all our records-creating authorities into one or another of four categories:—

Administration
Justice
Lands and Works
Sociology

The Administration category includes all records of departments whose functions are largely concerned with the supervision of over-all policy. In fact, the departments are those responsible to the Premier, the Treasurer and the Minister for Health. Health is included here, rather than in Sociology, because of its descent from the Colonial Secretary's Department.

The Justice category consists of Departments responsible to the Minister for Justice. These include the Public Curator Office, the Crown Solicitor, the Electoral Office, the Supreme Court and the Titles Office.

The Lands and Works category includes departments who are dealing with natural resources and national projects. These departments include, of course, the Departments of Lands and of Works, but also Local Government, Irrigation and Forestry, Mines and Main Roads, Primary Industry, Housing and Transport.

Finally, the "Sociology" category is somewhat amorphous. The Department of Education's records are included here, as well as those of the Department of Labour and Industry, the Police Department, and the newly-created Department of Industrial Development. Native Affairs records will be included here, as the Minister for Education is also responsible for this sub-department.

The work of an archives institution would be sterile and unrewarding if it were not for the assistance that is given to researchers of one kind or another. It is a principle of archives administration that the primary duty of an archivist lies in the protection of the record, and his duty to serve historical enquiry is second to this. That is, that nothing must interfere with the integrity of the record, and if historical research would tend to impair its authenticity, then such research cannot be tolerated. However, archives institutions exist to serve society, whether it is society of this present day, or posterity. Although the archives themselves are old, the Archives as an institution is new, and all new institutions must justify their usefulness by performing some service for society.

We can point with pride to the achievements of the Archives in the five years that have elapsed since the Section was founded. It is now possible for research workers to undertake studies which could not have been done before we brought the records together. Each year, the Department of History and Political Science makes arrangements for a number of research theses to be undertaken by third and fourth year Honours students. The third year thesis is not an advanced one, of course, and it often happens that students at this level do not need to consult the historical records in the Archives. But at fourth year level, the majority of students undertake theses which require considerable reference to historical records, and most of these get some help from the Archives. Indeed, many of the topics would not have been chosen but for

the fact that the Archives has been able to accumulate and make available the records.

The writing of local histories has received much encouragement in recent years, especially in those areas that have just celebrated centenaries, or are nearing the 100th anniversary of their foundation. For this type of research, our resources are well developed. We have Lands Department records which frequently tell us the names of pioneer settlers. Our sets of electoral rolls, beginning in the 1860s and coming right up to the present, are an invaluable source for residents' names. We have the School files of the Education Department, and local government files compiled at one period by the Works Department, and at another by the Colonial Secretary's Office.

Personal or biographical research is often more difficult, not because the nature of such research is always involved, but because, unless one knows what were the activities of the individual which brought him into contact with the Government, and therefore caused his name to be mentioned in the records, it is difficult to suggest avenues of enquiry. Our migration lists, as I have said, are incomplete. Many settlers came overland, at any rate, and if this happened before Queensland became a separate colony, it would be impossible in normal circumstances to trace a record of the arrival. Electoral rolls are again a source of information for this type of enquiry, and land records (especially the excellent series of indexes to the registers of selectors), indexes to births, deaths and marriages and coroners' inquest depositions are sometimes helpful.

The various agencies of the Government have found that reference to our records has often helped them with current administrative problems. This applies to those who have transferred records to us, as well as to those whose records are still in their own custody. Files that were lost, to all intents and purposes, when they were stowed away in a dim and dusty basement, have in many cases been located, and restored to their proper place in the series. Where departmental organisation of records was minimal, we have had the task of organising, arranging, listing and labelling records, and the department concerned has often had the pleasant experience of discovering that information on its past activities, long thought to have been lost or never recorded, is now available in the Archives. The interest that Departments show in events which are past is not simply a desire for information to answer the idle questions of the curious or to satisfy the whims of the dilettante historian. Recently, at least two departments have been studying very closely the Alienation of Crown Lands Act, 1860, for some of its provisions are going to affect closely an item on the current legislative programme!

The resources of the Archives are thus gradually coming to be used, and at the same time we are improving the means of access to these resources. In five years great progress has been made. There is much, of course, still to be done. We hope that, thanks to *Queensland Heritage*, there will be an increasingly large number of people who will take an interest in this development, and who will make use of the steadily increasing materials and improving facilities for research that we have to offer.

REFERENCES

1. This department became the Home Secretary's Office in 1896, the Department of Health and Home Affairs in 1936, and the Department of Health in 1963.
2. Douglas Gordon.—"Sickness and death at the Moreton Bay Convict Settlement," in *Medical Journal of Australia*, 21 Sep 1963. In this article, Professor Gordon used these hospital records as part of his source material.
3. G. C. Bolton.—*A thousand miles away; a history of North Queensland to 1920*. (Brisbane, Jacaranda Press, 1963), p. 20.
4. "An experiment in archives classification", in *Archives and Manuscripts* vol. 2. no. 6; Apr 1964.