

Acquired : Deposited by Miss M Robey, 1971, 1979
(did April 1981)

Access : Available for consultation, form to be signed for family

ROBEY & MATHER PAPERS

Miscellaneous papers relating mainly to the family of Joseph Benson Mather, deposited by his grand-daughter Miss Robey. Joseph Benson Mather was the eldest son of Robert Mather (1782-1855) and Ann (d.1831) daughter of Rev. Joseph Benson. Robert Mather arrived in VDL in 1822 and set up in business at the corner of Elizabeth & Liverpool Sts in Hobart, and became a trustee of the Wesleyan Church. He received a grant of land at Lauderdale but his farm was unsuccessful and he went into business with his two elder sons, Joseph Benson (1814-1890) and Robert Andrew (1815-1884). In 1834 he and some of his family joined the Society of Friends, and his daughter Sarah Benson married the Quaker missionary George Washington Walker (1800-1859) in 1840. Joseph Benson married Anna Maria Cotton and had a son, (Joseph) Francis (d. 1925) and three daughters, one of whom married C H Robey. Robert Mather's second wife, whom he married in 1842, was Esther Dixon.

R7/

- 1 Total Abstinence Society. 28 Dec. 1843

Anna Maria Mather's membership card

(1 small card)

- 2 High School Share ND [mid-nineteenth century]

- 3 Receipt, 24 May 1867

Receipt for 55 pounds 4 shillings, paid by Francis Cotton for interest on mortgage (1 paper)

- 4 Cheques 1867-1871
8 bank cheques connected with R Mather & Sons
(8 papers)
- 5 Receipt 1868
Receipt for eight pounds fourteen shillings to Provost & Co.,
publishers, London, by J B Mather.
(1 paper)
- 6 - 16 Photographs (studio portraits) c 1865 – 1897
- 6 Robert Andrew Mather, as old man, nd. Photo by C
Wherrett & Co. Hobart, obituary (news clipping) on back
(110mm x 115mm)
- 7 James Backhouse Walker (1841-1899), nd. Photo by Charles
A Woolley, Hobart.
(60mmx100mm)
- 8 James Backhouse Walker (1841-1899), [c 1880]. Photo by
Foster & Martin, Melbourne.
(60mmx100mm)
- 9 James Backhouse Walker (1841-1899), 1897. Photo by J W
Beattie, Hobart, signed 'to Cousin Annie'
(110mmx115mm)
- 10 Robert Walker (1846-1894), nd. Photo , 4 head studies,
different angles, by Charles A Woolley, Hobart.
(mount 60mmx90mm)

- 11 George Benson Walker (1844-1882), nd. Photo by Charles A Woolley, Hobart.
(60mmx100mm)
- 12 Margaret Bragg Walker, nd. Photo by Charles A Woolley, Hobart.
(60mmx100mm)
- 13 James Backhouse Walker (1841-1899), with Mary, Isa, Sarah, nd. Photo by H H Bailey.
(110mmx115mm).
- 14 Joseph Walker, as young man, nd. Photo by Charles A Woolley, Hobart.
- 15 Elizabeth Walker, seated at desk, wearing full skirted check dress, nd. Photo by Charles A Woolley, Hobart.
(60mmx90mm)
- 16 Daughters of Robert Walker as children : Annie, Elsie, Gertrude, Jean, nd. Photo by Bishop Osborne, Hobart.
(110mmx140mm)
- 17 Invitation card (blank), nd. Old map of Australia on back. R Clint, Sydney.
(70mmx110mm).
- 18 Daniel Wheeler's epistle to York Quarterly meeting, 1832.
Printed paper.
- 19 Recorded interview with Marguerita Frances Robey, 1 Feb 1973.

Interview with Miss M Robey, aged 80, a granddaughter of Joseph Benson Mather, made by Mrs Nancie Hewitt and Miss M Littlejohn, University Archivist. The first part of the interview is an attempts to identify Friends portrayed in the group photograph of those attending the General Meeting January 1933 (published in The Centenary of Australian Quakerism, 1832-1932), together with

reminiscences of members and their families. The recording (made while the participants enjoyed afternoon tea) continued with chatty reminiscences concerning the building of the Hobart Meeting House, Miss Robey's childhood memories of attending Meetings, some amusing anecdotes of other Meetings, and many other memories of Friends' affairs in Tasmania over the past one hundred or so years including: a reference to planting gum trees in Israel, the Cotton family, the Gray family, the mother of a maid of the Gray* family who cut the throats of her children and herself, memory of a letter from Samuel Gurney, etc.

Also on 2nd tape : reminiscences of Miss Robey's mother (Esther, daughter of Joseph Benson Mather). Journey by ship to Kelvedon. Stories of Edward Cotton and his fiancée Sarah B Mather who died of typhoid and his wife Helen Grueber. Reminiscences of Sarah (Mather) Walker and her daughter, Mary, and James Cotton, brother of Edward.

Side 2 : Stories of Edward Cotton and his sister Rachel, also of their mother Anna Maria Cotton.

Mention of the Greer sisters who came to Tasmania and stayed with William and Bessie Wells. One married William May and the other a Furmage. One had been a maid with the Robert Mathers. William Levett Wells came to Tasmania to work for J B Mather – he was a relative through the Lidbetters – incidents concerning the Wells family.

Edmund Gower established King's Grammar School at Boa Vista before Leslie House School (later Clemes College) was established there by

Samuel Clemes. David Shoobridge, William Clemes' nephew was in charge of Canberra Botanical Gardens.

(recording, 2 cassettes, C.60 and 2 spool tapes, 3mm)

See also R7/107

ROBEY

R7

Further deposit received through Mrs R Mather, Aug 1979.

MATHER PAPERS

R7/

REV. JOSEPH BENSON (1749 - 1821)

Father of Ann Mather

20 1819 Apr. 6. Letter from Walter Lawry of Sydney to Rev. Joseph Benson about information on South Sea missions and Botany Bay.

ROBERT MATHER (1782? – 1855)

Son of Andrew Mather, blacksmith, and Agnes of Lauder near Berwick-on-Tweed, UK; married (1) 1811 Ann Benson (1786 - 1832), daughter of Rev. Joseph Benson; (2) 1842 Esther Dixon.

21-32 Voyage to VDL 1821 – 1822

Letters relating to their departure from London, delay of ship 'Hope', cargo, tracts for missionaries, form J Morley, J Smith, T Collins, J Webb, Adam Mather, J Taylor, W Lowe, J Dunn

(13 letters)

33-38 Letters from father and brother 1822 – 1826

39-44 Letters from friends and family, mainly about business matters and trade, but some family news. 1822 – 1832

45-49 Letters from Wesleyan missionaries 1811 – 1835

Including B Carvosso, Walter Lawry, R Mansfield, W Walker, William Horton, advice on spiritual matters.

50-66 Papers relating to Government boats being hauled across Ralph's Bay Neck over Mather's land 1832 – 1836

67-71 Correspondence about assigned servants 1834, 1848

72 Marriage certificate of Robert Mather and Esther Dixon, 18.8.1842

73-74 Pamphlet on 'How do we procure sugar' and invitation to Capt. Dixon to dine at Government House.

JOSEPH BENSON MATHER (1814 – 1890)

Son of Robert and Ann Mather, married Anna Maria Cotton 1842

75-80 Marriage certificate 1842 and birth certificates of children, 1844-1855

81-100 Letters received 1837 – 1854, 1865

From father, G W Walker, James Backhouse, Charles Wheeler, Mary John Knott, Thomas Smith, Thomas Satterthwaite, G F Story, J H Darley, A Asher, P J Harvey, J B Walker (nephew), Mary Mather (aunt).

101-104 Obituaries of J B Mather 1890

ESTHER ANN ROBEY (MATHER)

- 105 Marriage certificate of Charles Henry Robey and Esther Ann Mather 23 July 1884.

MISCELLANEOUS

- 106 Miscellaneous papers, including obituaries of F Cotton, news clippings, John Franklin's signature.
- 107 Note signed by M F Robey, of the story of the maid of Fred & Elizabeth Gray whose mother killed her children and herself (see also recording R7/19)

Further deposits received from R Mather, May 1981.

JOSEPH BENSON MATHER & FAMILY

(see also M19, numbers 56-62, 100)

- 108 Letter from J B Mather to his 'beloved children' 31 May 1864
 Written on his birthday, thankful for favours granted to him in life.
- 109 Letter from R Mather to Joseph Cotton 14 Dec 1861
 Refers to the Regatta and a walk up Mt Wellington
- 110 Chronicle of historical events 1759-1913
 'Chronological table....to connect our family events with contemporary English and Colonial history' by J Francis Mather, with addendum of articles on war.

Enclosed : letter from Lucy [widow of JBM's nephew, 4 Jun 1931, that she was sending her the chronicle, one of four copies made, as Esther already had one.

(typescript, bound)

111 J Francis Mather - scrapbook

Album of miscellaneous letters and papers. About 1924 JFM noted at the front (p.2) an account of his schooling at Clifton House (New Norfolk), Somerset House, Elizabeth St, Hobart (William Wade), with Frederick Mackie at friends' Meeting House (1857) and at the City School (Robert Giblin, later H M Pike).

He passed the AA exam and could still read newspapers without glasses at the age of 80.

Papers include : -

ROBERT MATHER (1782 - 1855):

Receipt from captain of 'Denmark Hill' for freightage on goods 10 June 1822 (p.8)

Bank order for ten pounds on VDL Bank 1830 (p.9)

Joseph Benson Mather (1814 - 1890)

Bill from Hinsky & Calvert chemists 1874 (p.21)

Testimonial to quality of clothing supplied to Police Force by J B Mather & Son 1874 (p.7)

Dobson, Mitchell & Allport's bill for preparing deed 1888 (p.3)

Sympathy on death from British & Foreign Bible Society 1890 (p.24)

Testimonial to his work as Secretary to the Boys Training School 1890 (p.12)

J FRANCIS MATHER (1844 - 1925):

As secretary of Friends' School Committee letters from :

W E Shoobridge 1887 - to send 3 boys to school and supply produce as part payment (p.23); H Benjafield 1892 - willing to school medical

attendant (p.22); C Fryer and other masters 1896 – condition of the boys playground (p.17); South British Insurance 1896 (p.18); A M Shoobridge 1915 – Committee (p.28); Margery Ford 1921; Hilda Binny 1923 (p.16); W H Fowler – accounts 1923.

General letters from : Thomas Mason 1900; Frank Marsh 1900; Thomas E Grubb 1904; B B Le Tall 1905 – note for Monthly Meeting : Bishop Mercer 1911; Friends' Library, London – thanks for copy of J B Mather's account of rise of Society of Friends in Tasmania, 1922; Ann Whitworth 1923.

Birth certificate of J F Mather 1844 (copy 1886)

Esther Mather :

Letter from Aunt Sarah B Walker thanking her for shoes, nd.

Miscellaneous items : -

Death certificate of Harriet Eliza Annie Mather 1890

Hutchins School bill for Master Cotton 1882 (p.10)

Arthur Midgley drawings and part of letter (p.250)

Photograph of Herbert Corder (p.5)

'Mercury Extra', nd. Melbourne cholera. Also photo of Mercury Extra 8 July 1857 – telegraph (p.1) Memorial notices : F Mackie 1893, Edward Sayce 1892.

Northern Railway League Papers no.2 nd [?1865]

Advertisement for Sloyd manual Training for girls 1909 (p.6) - inc. verse copied by friend travelling with Mathers on SS Medie 1909

Religious verse and thoughts, visiting cards.

(loose leaf alphabetical letter file book)

112 ESTHER (MATHER) & C H ROBEY & FAMILY

Letter from Mary May to Esther 28 Sept. 1864

Letter from Mary May (nee Cotton) Adelaide, to her niece Esther thanking her for the large wax doll to be given to her cousin Louisa, when she would be old enough. Refers also to other children and Uncle William. Account of accident to child struck by lightning and children lost near Mt. Gambier.

(paper torn)

113 Letter from C H Robey to wife Esther 26 May 1885

Written from Sydney – mentions typhoid, water filters, Meetings, family letters, Sunday School for writing and scripture taken by William Cooper.

114-115 Letters from C J Holdsworth to Esther Robey 19 July 1931, 26 Dec 1933.

Death of Alice [his wife], refers to her photograph (see R7/156), and to Christmas card photograph sent by E Robey.

116-119 Bellerive property 1912, 1918, 1969

Bills from lawyer, architect, furniture mover (1912-1918); also valuation certificate 1969 – Mrs C H Robey and Misses E J & M F Robey.

120 Cash account book 1921 - 1949

Accounts for general household bills including groceries, meat etc.

121 News cutting book c 1888 - 1900

Cuttings relating to Tasmanian Main Line Railway Co., case in Supreme Court 1889, 'trip to West Coast 1888, railways 1896, 1897, fruit processing, gold and mineral mining, Mount Huxley Mine [? C H Robey]

122 News cutting book, nd.

Cuttings on 'sulphur cure', cultivation of beetroot and potatoes.

123-125 Francis Cotton and Kelvedon, [1974]

Copies of an account of 'home life in Van Diemen's Land' by Mrs Frances Cotton read to Tasmanian Historical Research Association 1974, Francis Cotton's arrival, note of graves at Kelvedon.

(3 typescripts)

- 126 Copy of letters from William May to his sister Rachel Ann Mackie 3 July 1887, 17 Sept 1889.

Account of visits to Kelvedon and east Coast

(typescript)

PHOTOGRAPHS

- 127 Holiday or picnic photos c 1900 - 1914

Groups in a bush setting; young Friends camps NSW

(8 photographs mounted on two papers (? From an album), see also S1/21

- 128 Group at door of garden hut c 1900 - 1914

- 129-142 Australian Friends' Group photographs : -

129) Annual Meeting Melbourne c 1889

130) Sydney First Day Adults' School picnic March 1891

131) Group outside porch of building, nd. [c 1890-1905]

Including T A & Mrs Cooper, Whitworth, Wright

(photo Mrs A G Foster)

132) Larger group outside same building, nd. [c 1890-1905]

133) Group including C H Robey, nd. [c 1890-1914]

134) General Meeting NSW [c 1918-1920]

(including Esther Robey)

- 135) General Meeting Adelaide [c 1923-4]
(W S Smith, photographer)
- 136) Hobart General Meeting [c 1928-9]
- 137) Group, Brisbane, nd. [c 1945-50]
- 138) Group, nd. [c1945-1955]
- 139) Group, ('R Erskine'), nd. [c1945-1955]
- 140) Group, Adelaide, nd. [c 1945-60]
- 141) Hobart General Meeting, January 1953
- 142) Hobart General Meeting (? father, mother, daughter), Jan 1953.
- 143 Friends' School old scholars 50th anniversary 1937.
- 144 Mrs Tanner, friends' High School housekeeper (1890), studio portrait by Charles Woolley.
- 145 Alice Pierce, nd. [after 1890] (see also J5/14).
- 146 Sarah & Mary Pumphrey, nd. [c1890].
Hammer & Co. Adelaide, studio portrait.
- 147-148
Dr thorp, Mrs thorp, nd. [? 1912-19]
Head and shoulders portraits, Bain Studios. Dr & Mrs Thorp lived at Strathaven, Hobart. Dr Thorp died in 1919.
- 149 John Morland 1933
Seated portrait, signed.
- 150 Edith Barrett, nd.
Head and shoulder portrait, Duryea, Adelaide.
- 151 D & V Hodgkin, nd.
Studio portrait.

- 152 Alice Holdsworth (wife of C J Holdsworth) [c 1930]
 Seated at table with knitting (see letter R7/114)
- 153 Wedding group ? Olive Wilkinson [nd. ? 1920-30]
 Miscellaneous
- 154 'Study for "The Messages" (at Birmingham Art Gallery)'
 (photo of pencil study, mounted)

PRINTED PAMPHLETS

- 155 The Mount Lyell Mining & Railway Co. Ltd., Report & Accounts, 31 Mar 1902.
- 156 Meditation of Thomas Hodgkin 1910.
 Printed on card with photo of Barmoor [Castle], 'from L A & LV Hodgkin, 1914'
- 157- 'The Society of Friends, what they stand for' Oct, 1945 and the 'Life and
 158 Worship', printed leaflets issued by the Society of Friends, Hobart.
 (marked 'please return to M F Robey')

PRINTED BOOKS

Books belonging to Miss M Robey – transferred to Friends' Library,
 (University Library)

A memoir of Daniel Wheeler, with an account of his gospel Labours in
 the Islands of the Pacific, (Philadelphia 1859), octavo vol, inscribed :
 "Francis Mather the gift of R F Lindsey 1860.

Quaker pioneers in Russia, Jane Benson (London, 1902) (octavo vo.,
 inscribed 'Margie Robey with love from Linor, Jan 1914')

Essentials of Quakerism by George H Gorman (Friends, London 1959)

(pamphlet, 8pp)

Life as Prayer, Richard L Cary Lecture by Carl Heath (1939) (Friends, London, reprint 1952 24pp) (2 copies)

The faith of the Bible in the world today, Herbert G Wood, (Friends, London, 2nd edition 1956, 20pp)

Some Quaker thoughts, passages from a letter by Caroline Stephen, (London, Headley Bros, nd. 22pp)

Thomas Hodgkin D C L. 1881 - 1913, reprinted from Annual Monitor, 194 (photo Thomas Hodgkin, 20pp)

(pamphlet inscribed 'with love from G L Hodgkin')

Grass of Parnassus on Firbank Fell by L Violet Holdsworth, (Friends, London, 1930, 26pp)

(pamphlet inscribed 'for Linor with J & L V H's love, 1931)

A brief dictionary of Quakerism (London, Friends, revised 1958, 58pp)

Anima, the pilgrim of the Cross by L V Holdsworth, (London, Longmans Green, 1933, 62pp), illustrated by Mrs Cayley Robinson.

(octavo booklet, inscribed 'Robey, Xmas '34 C J H')

The responsibilities of Membership in the Society of Friends, an address to the annual Ols Scholars Association York, 1907 by Anne Wakefield Robinson. (Society of Friends, York, 1907, 15pp)

Joshua Rowntree (Society of friends, Yorkshire, 1905, 24pp, 2 illustrations)

(pamphlet inscribed 'J Francis Mather')

Poor Everybody? A story for children by L Violet Holdsworth, reprinted from the Friends Quarterly Examiner April 1938, 24pp.

(pamphlet inscribed 'with L V H's love')

The message of Fox by Elisabeth Brockbank, (Friends, London, 1930, 8pp)

The Supernatural history of worms. Compiled by Marion C Fox, executed by Wm Bryan Binns. (Friends' Book Centre, London, 1961, 6pp)

- 159 Letter from Comptroller General 9th Sept. 1851

Accepting an explanation for a man's absence from his residence when apprehended by police.

ESTHER DIXON (LATER MATHER)

- 160 Letter from Elizabeth? Thorn, 4th May 1822.

Pleased to hear of Esther's safe arrival in Edinburgh and adding an epistle of the writings and opinions of eminent friends.

- 161 Power of Attorney, 9th August 1836.

Copy of Power of attorney given to George Impey (Linen Manufacturer) of Whitby, Yorks for duration of Esther Dixon's visit to NSW.

- 162 Album 19th June 1830 - 1st Feb 1849

Religious poems, extracts from books and copies of letters from Sarah Crosby to 'Mrs B' 1760 - 1762

A diary 15th Aug. 1836 - 16th Dec. 1836 written after leaving Whitby, Yorks, for Australia on the "Isabella", sailing from Portsmouth. The diary records the life on board for 12 weeks of the voyage, ending while near the Cape. A visit ashore at Port Praia on the island of Sao Tiago is described in great detail and sightings of birds, fish, islands and passing ships are mentioned. Weather conditions are also recorded.

A later entry dated 1st Feb. 1849 records being nominated, together with another Friend, as an overseer in their 'Little Meeting'.

At end, notes on Dixon genealogy.

MISCELLANEOUS (manuscript)

- 163 A farewell to the homeland written in VDL, nd.
- 164 "My meditation of Him shall be sweet" psl.civ 34 copied 12th of 8 mo. 1860.
 'Found behind some shelves at 91 Liverpool Street in June 1901. Written by my dear father RAM Robert Mather'.
- 165 An acrostic poem on William Hawley by 'F Cotton in reply to acrostic on Ann Mather by William Hawley'.
- 166 'In memoriam. In memory of my Mother, Maria Quaife, who died 12 January AD 1857'. By? E. Quaife, Murrurundi, NSW. 12 th Jan. 1864.
- 167 'To a Friend in Affliction', nd.
- 168 'The Mother's Farewell to her Wedded Daughter', 1864.
- 169 Report of a sub-committee of the Sanitary Association appointed to consider improvements to public reserves in Hobart and conservation of natural beauties around the city. w.d.
- 170 Photograph of First Yearly Meeting of the Society of friends, held at Friends' House, London, fifth mo. 1927?(must be incorrect)

EMMA ELIZABETH MATHER (daughter of Joseph Benson Mather, married William Benson 1885)

- 171 Birth certificate
- 172 Certificate of Intention of marriage notice, 22nd Jan. 1885
- 173 Declaration of no 'lawful impediment' 24th Feb. 1885
- 174 Quaker Marriage certificate, 25th Feb. 1885
- 175, 6 Wedding photographs 2 groups

PHOTOGRAPHS

- 177 Friends' Conference (held before GM was started), 1-7 May, 1901, Melbourne (and key to names)
- 178 Adelaide GM (Society of Friends), Sept/Oct. 1909, W S Smith, photographer (and key to names)
- 179 F H Old Scholars GM. Sydney 1927 (and key to names)
- 180 "In the love of the Gospel". Play written by children of Hobart Monthly Meeting, under guidance of Margey Robey and Helen Walpole, for presentation at general Meeting, Hobart, 1962. (2 typed copies and programme)

Further deposits received from Eileen Mather, December 1986.

- 181,182 To Joseph Benson Mather, 31st May 1857, 1858. Birthday letters from son Joseph Francis (181) and sister[in-law] Ann (182)
- 183 Humorous petition to Robert Andrew and Ann Mather 24 Nov 1858, from daughter Sarah Benson Mather requesting permission to continue lodging at the home of her uncle Joseph where she enjoyed the company of her cousins Esther and Francis, instead of the proposed move to her uncle George Walker's. (? Written by Joseph Benson Mather)
- 184-186 To Esther Ann Mather (b. 1849) 27 Sept. 1859. Birthday letters from Aunt Ann and Uncle Robert [Mather], grandmother Esther Mather, also unsigned greetings, nd.
- 187 Hand painted Christmas card, 1962. From Margie & Linor Robey to Clive and Ruth Sansom.