

Deposited by Mrs Cripps, of Strathelie, Broadmarsh 1969
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**OSCAR JONES, SOLICITOR, QUEENSTOWN
OF MURDOCH & JONES
(FORMERLY WILLIAMS & PAGE)
1896 - 1902**

Papers of Oscar Jones, solicitor of Murdoch & Jones Queenstown branch and his predecessor A.L. Williams, apparently found at Strathelie, formerly the Jones family home. The papers are business papers of the Queenstown branch of solicitors Murdoch & Jones, formerly Williams & Page, including mine share business. There are also a few personal papers of A.L. Williams and of Oscar Jones.

The Queenstown practice was established by A.L. Williams in 1896. Later Charles Page became a partner and established an office at Zeehan. George Murdoch of the Stone Buildings, Hobart, later Murdoch and Jones, acted as Hobart agent and early in 1898 the two firms merged as Williams and Page of Hobart, Queenstown and Zeehan. In April 1899, however, Williams sold out to Murdoch and Jones, Oscar Jones managed the Queenstown branch and by July the firm's name was changed to Murdoch & Jones. Williams & Page remained in Zeehan, under C.S. Page.

Alex Lachlan Williams was admitted a barrister and solicitor of the Supreme Court of Tasmania on 20 April 1893. He set up practice in the Stone Buildings, Hobart, but about 1896 he moved to Queenstown. His family apparently had a store in Zeehan, which was leased and mortgaged when they moved to Hobart and two of his brothers, Tasman Henry and Ernie did some prospecting and mine share dealing, although letters suggest there was a depression in the Tasmanian West Coast mining business at that time. Alex Williams acted as agent for the Mount Lyell Reserve Mine shares and other mine share business. He also acted as solicitor for the Queenstown Council and for Burgess Brothers of Hobart. Much of the work of his Queenstown practice was in small debt recovery. In 1899 he sold out to Murdoch and Jones and, after working for a month or two in the Zeehan office settling outstanding business, he apparently moved to Melbourne and set up an office there. His mother's father, Owen Davis, lived at Whangaroa, New Zealand and wrote a letter in 1896 about prospects for lawyers there being good owing to the mine boom.

Charles Service Page (1870-1949), second son of Alfred Page MLC, was articled to Hookey & Young of Hobart, admitted 30 October 1893 and entered into partnership with A. L. Williams and opened a branch in Zeehan in 1897. He continued in the Zeehan office of Williams and Page after Williams sold his interests to Murdoch & Jones, who continued to act as Hobart agents, until he returned to Hobart about 1904 and set up practice in Collins Street. He later went into partnership with P.R. Seager. He was President of the Australian Natives Association (Hobart) 1907. He married Violet, daughter of William Burgess.

George Murdoch was admitted a barrister and solicitor on 3 November 1894 and set up practice in Hobart in the Stone Buildings. Like his partner, Oscar Jones, he seems to have had connections with the Broadmarsh district.

Oscar Henry Jones (1875-1960), son of Henry Jones of Strathelie, Broadmarsh, was born on 25 June 1875, educated at Hutchins School and then articled to Butler, McIntyre and Butler, and was admitted on 18 April 1898. He joined George Murdoch to form Murdoch and Jones and managed the Queenstown office (formerly Williams & Page) from April 1899. He appears to have left the Queenstown office and returned to the Broadmarsh district about 1902 or 1903. Murdoch & Jones later took another partner, Charles D'Arcy Cuthbert, who had served articles with Murdoch and was admitted as solicitor on 15 Aug. 1900.

WILLIAMS & PAGE

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1

Murdoch to Williams Jan. 1897 - Apr. 1899

George Murdoch or Murdoch & Jones, as Hobart agent, to Alec Williams, Queenstown, on legal business, including Clarke estate, Burgess, Gaffney, Queenstown Board, some "Reserve" Mine share business, and general legal business for clients. There are occasional personal notes, such as a comment that Charlie "made things very brisk", Charles' "young lady"(27/9/97; 11/10/97); "You missed a treat at the House last night when A.I.Clark resigned his seat . . . The Railway League . . . passed a resolution congratulating him on his admirable and courageous conduct" (21/10/97).

(letters in chronological order in 1 folder)

2

Charles Page, Zeehan, to Alex Williams 1897 - Apr. 1899

Business, including services for Lyell Reserve business, received telegram that "fixed up with Murdoch & Jones" (25/4/99), and occasional personal references such as news from New Norfolk: Gerald [Adams'] sudden death of Bright's disease (20/2/98).

(letters in chronological order in 1 folder)

3

Williams & Page, Queenstown: clients' legal business 1896 - 1899

Letters from clients and other solicitors on legal matters, especially debt recovery cases. Clients included G.A.J. Meredith (sale of store at Zeehan, purchase of farm), A. Oliver (Clarke's land), S.Gaffney, R. Gerald Browne (debts due to Christopher Kriska of Ringarooma, storekeeper)

(letters in chronological order in 1 folder)

4

Burgess Brothers, Hobart merchants 1897 - 1902

Williams & Page appointed to manage and collect rents of cottage in Queenstown (1897), correspondence relating to rents, business debts, J. Clarke's estate, etc. continued by Murdoch & Jones .

(letters in chronological order in 1 folder)

5

Queenstown Town Board 1898 - 1899

Legal work for the Board, including sanitary contract (collection of 130 pans per night, steam cleaning apparatus for pans provided), raising of level of footpath in Orr Street, King Street Tramway; notification of infectious diseases: cases of typhoid not reported,. (See also 18)

(loose papers in 1 folder)

6

Dr. W. A Harrison, client 1898 - 1899

Papers in cases Harrison v Sperber and Carvel v Harrison, including letters from Dr. Harrison to a former housekeeper, Mary Coleman.

(loose papers in 1 folder)

7

Legal documents drafted Dec. 1896 - Jan. 1899

Including leases, mortgages, contracts for sale, wills and debt recovery applications to the Court of Requests.

1) 1896 (Davis lease to Turner, Teniswood mortgage)

2) 1897

3) 1897-8 Burgess: Queenstown Hotel - settlement of J.J. Clarke estate

4) 1898 (inc. Royal Hotel lease, Mt.Lyell Hotel, Gormanston)

5) 1898-9 Parer case - Michael & Maria Parer hotel keepers

6) 1899, Jan. (T.A.Moy, Strahan Bakery)

7) 1897 - 1898 Debt & Bankruptcy applications - Court of Requests, Supreme Court.

(arranged in 7 sections in 1 folder)

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8

A.L. Williams' case notes 1897 - 1899

Notes, statements etc relating to cases and rough notes of statements of witnesses in court etc.

(loose papers in 1 folder)

9

Inquest notes 1897 - 1902

Notes on inquests, including death of Percy O. Williams miner at Gormanston, mine explosion and question of provision of refuge from shot firing in No. 3 tunnel in mine, Louisa Webster wife of Sam Webster manufacturing jeweller using cyanide and nitric acids in workshop, Walter Weeks, Thomas Ellis, Railway Hotel fire May 1902.

(loose papers in 1 folder)

10

A.L. Williams: Mt. Lyell Reserve Mine share business etc 1897 - 1899

Papers relating to business for Mount Lyell Reserve Mine including list of receipts for scrips issued, Mount Lyell Reserve Bill, report of Mount Lyell Reserve meeting, correspondence scrip receipts etc. Also correspondence, etc. relating to shares etc of other mines including: prospectus Mt. Ellen Gold Mining Co., Western Tharsis Mining Co., mining leases, letters from solicitors, sharebrokers (including E.O. Williams of Gormanston), Thomas Williams, F.J. Ernst.

(loose papers in 1 folder)

11

Williams & Page, Queenstown, accounts 1897 - 1899

Account statements

(loose papers in 1 folder)

12

A.I. Williams letters from family 1895 - 1898

Letters from brother Tasman Henry Williams: Mount Lyell, mines, jobs, mine shares, including letters from A.O'Shea Petersen, R. Moore and George Lambie about THW's claim to part of Lake Dora section (1895-7), recovering from typhoid in Perth, W.A. - passage there on crowded ship, woman jumped overboard, rescued and revived but died later in hospital (6 May 1898); brother Mat, Auckland: "black brother Copper" got job, no sea jobs, Ernie got work at North Wairad mine, Emma, children Clyde and Mort (27/3/1895, 1/2/96); grandfather, Owen Davis, of Whangaroa, N.Z. - prospects for lawyer there (23 Sept. 1896); incomplete letter from Ernie on prospects for solicitor - "not be hard to get a practice together as there is a great deal of dissatisfaction among the natives (who compose the majority here) . . . drawback not being able to talk the Maori tongue (ND); sister Britie, Hobart: death of Gerald Adams age 25 might leave vacancy, family moved into new house, Dad gardening, store and dwelling at Zeehan, references to Mother, Papa, Phyllis, Herbert, Ernie (2 Oct. 1897); brother Herbert: the store; mother, ?S.L. Williams; brother Tommy: music and singing.

(25 letters)

13

A.L. Williams - miscellaneous personal letters 1894 - 1897

From Geoffrey J. Judge, Zeehan: repairs to T. Gibbins' shop, lack of mining jobs, mines "commencing to look up" (1 July, 19 Aug. 1894); James Duncan: tenancy of Williams' property at Zeehan (12 Sept. 1896); Ada Proctor, Sandy Bay: hearing ALW. about to leave Hobart thanks for all he did for Aunt (29 Aug. 1897); E.A. Lorkin, North Lyell: lease, amalgamation, section not complying with labour clause (18 Oct. 1897); J. McDonald, Strahan: timber (6 Sept. 1897).

(6 letters)

14

A.L. Williams: electoral speech c 1897-8

Draft speech addressed to electors of Montagu.

MURDOCH & JONES

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15 A.L. Williams, Zeehan, & Oscar Jones correspondence May 1899
Letters relating to outstanding legal business of clients.
(3 letters)
- 16 George Murdoch, Hobart, to Oscar Jones, Queenstown April 1899 - March 1902
Formal letters on legal work for clients, from Murdoch & Jones, Hobart, to Murdoch & Jones, Queenstown, on legal business and clients continuing from Williams: including Gaffney, Burgess Brothers, Queenstown Board and Hospital etc. A few personal notes were included, as for example: GM. heard that OHJ's brother had "volunteered for the Bushman's contingent but was refused on account of his youth" (12/2/1900 South African War); "Cuthbert left me on a month's holiday yesterday. I miss him. I have been thinking it will be a good idea to keep him on, and work something like you were trying to work up before you left." (27 June 1900), Jones ill with a form of influenza with red blotches on skin, Murdoch "going to Broadmarsh on Saturday to watch the Hunt. The Mater is on the Committee to arrange the dance at Brighton afterwards" (6 Sept. 1900).
(letters in chronological order in 1 folder)
- 17 Murdoch & Jones, Queenstown, clients legal business 1900-1902
Letters from clients and other solicitors on clients' legal business.
(letters in chronological order in 1 folder)
- 4 Burgess Brothers, Hobart merchants 1899 - 1902
Letters from Burgess Brothers about recovery of debts, collection of rents, Clarke's estate and other legal business, continued from Williams & Page.
(letters in chronological order in 1 folder)
- 18 Queenstown Board 1899 - 1901
Legal business for Queenstown Town Board, continued from Williams & Page, including: encroachment of dwellings on the Esplanade including proceedings against H.A. Boyd (1899), rates, water rates, fire brigade, proposition to borrow money (1899-1900), Mt. Lyell Railway level crossings, water mains.
(loose papers in chronological order in 1 folder)
- 19 Legal documents drafted 1899 - 1903
Including leases, mortgages, wills, deeds of partnership, and a marriage settlement and small debt recovery applications to the Court of Requests.
- 1) 1899 (including will of John Allan, marriage settlement Muir-Gruning, partnership McKay-Hoban, sales (Burgess, Easton etc)
 - 2) 1900 (leases, partnership: Brown Bros. cordial mfrs.)
 - 3) 1901-2 (leases, bill of sale (Burgess))
 - 4) 1899-1902 Court of Requests small debts recovery applications (inc. Parer & Higgins, Imperial Hotel)
 - 5) 1903 O.H.Jones solicitor - agreement A.A.Davis & W.Webberley for sawmill at Hillside, Black Brush.
- (arranged in 5 sections in 1 folder)
- 9 Inquest notes 1899 - 1902
Notes on inquests, (continued from Williams & Page) including Walter Weeks, Thomas Ellis, Railway Hotel fire May 1902, etc.
(loose papers in 1 folder)
- 20 Mine share business papers 1899 - 1902
Correspondence relating to mine shares, including letter from A.L. Williams, Melbourne, asking OHJ. to sell ALW's interests in a section "Darwin" (29/1/1900); transfers Mount Jukes, Lake Jukes.
(loose papers in 1 folder)

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- 21 Murdoch & Jones, Queenstown, accounts 1899 - 1901
Statements of account.
(loose papers in 1 folder)

OSCAR H. JONES - PERSONAL

- 22 Letters received 1899, 1900
From Prothonotary's Office, Melbourne, approving OHJ's application to be appointed commissioner of the Supreme Court of Victoria for taking affidavits (5 Dec. 1899); C. D'Arcy Cuthbert: Cuthbert's and Gillies' law exam marks, Cuthbert about to complete articles and be admitted but staying with Murdoch & Jones (c Aug. 1900).
(2 letters)
- 23 Australian Natives Association 1900, 1907
Branch to be formed in Queenstown (1900); printed notice of resolutions 1907
(C.S. Page president).
(5 papers)
- 24 Henry and O.H. Jones, Broadmarsh 1902 - 1909
Miscellaneous papers relating to farm: pedigree of ram, sale of fruit, sale of wool, building of stable, windmill. Also undated Buckland's School report on "Jones".
(24 docs.)