



THE UNIVERSITY OF MELBOURNE ARCHIVES

NAME OF COLLECTION	TREGASKIS, RICHARD
ACCESSION NO	1976.0048
CATEGORY	Business, individuals
ACTIVITY	Manufacturers, chemicals
DATE RANGE	1888-1894
SIZE OF COLLECTION	28 letters – 1 Folder
HISTORICAL NOTE	In 1891 Richard Tregaskis and his son, E. Franklin Tregaskis established a small farm near Briagolong in Gippsland. The property consisted of a house, land, orchards and eucalyptus trees for producing eucalyptus oil.
DATE OF TRANSFER	
ACCESS CONDITIONS	Access: Open
DESCRIPTION	Correspondence

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RECORDS RECEIVED INTO CUSTODY

NAME: TREGASKIS FAMILY

ADDRESS:

MAIN ACTIVITY: Farming and eucalyptus oil

INCLUSIVE DATES: 1888-1894

QUANTITY:

CONDITION: Good

GENERAL NOTE: In 1891 Richard Tregaskis and his son, E. Franklin Tregasikis started to develop their property at Wa de Lock, near Briagolong in Gippsland. The property consisted of a house, land, orchards and eucalyptus trees for producing eucalyptus oil. Richard's daughter, Mrs. S.L. Pratt, was kept in regular contact by the two men who informed her of the progress of the building and development on clearing the land. She sent them money to help pay for the materials and equipment to build the house and fence the property. Most of the letters have some information about the weather; dams and amount of water; progress on the building site; family matters; money withdrawals and payments involving the bank of N.S.W. Gradually they were producing eucalyptus oil and making a fairly prosperous business with it. Food shortages, etc. in Briagolong and Mr. Richard Tregaskis' occasional visits to his sister (Mrs. A. Palmer) in Trafalgar whenever he fell ill were mentioned. The house was apparently intended for Mrs. Pratt and her family who were to join her father and brother in Briagolong after its completion.

LIST OF RECORDS:

GROUP 1. CORRESPONDENCE

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- 1/1 E. Franklin Tregaskis, [Maffra] to Richard Tregaskis, Ballarat West
Decided to stay in Maffra and look around the area instead of going home. Season's greetings.
24 December 1888
3pp.
- 1/2 Mrs. S.L. Pratt, Mulga Park, Wa de Lock, Briagolong to R. Tregaskis, Ballarat West
Her life at Briagolong - weather, neighbours Mr. & Mrs. McDonald, pigs and the sale price in Melbourne. Food made and animals kept - pigs, fowls, turkeys. Greetings to family and friends.
8 June 1889
4pp. (1 sheet)
- 1/3 E. Franklin Tregaskis [Wa de Lock] to R. Tregaskis, Ballarat North
Buying timber from old mine, postage, installing conductor cast, local elections, mishaps during delivery of a box.
18 August 1890
4pp. (1 sheet) (pages number 5-8, pp.1-4 missing)
- 1/4 E. Franklin Tregaskis [Wa de Lock] to R. Tregaskis, Ballarat
Discussing how he is going to build his house, what fruit trees to plant and the price of the tools he is using.
2 December 1890
2pp. (1 sheet)
- 1/5 Richard Tregaskis, Wa de Lock to Mrs. S.L. Pratt, Ballarat West
Business transactions about land, house and plans for farming.
Enclosure: E. Franklin Tregaskis to Mrs. S.L. Pratt
Payments for fences
7 December 1890
4pp. (1 sheet)
- 1/6 Richard Tregaskis, Wa de Lock to Mrs. S.L. Pratt, Ballarat North
Money transactions regarding payments for setting up the fence, wages, accounts, and balance of money in bank of N.S.W. Discussing his grand-daughter's education.
21 January 1891
4pp. (2 sheets)
- 1/7 Richard Tregaskis, Wa de Lock to Mrs. S.L. Pratt, Ballarat
Fencing and money involved, working hard, clearing trees and how they are doing it. Describing the orchards and dam and amount of water about. The difference in appearance and what to do if hard times come with money, etc.
5 February 1891
4pp. (1 sheet)

<u>GROUP 1.</u>	<u>CORRESPONDENCE</u>	(cont.)
1/8	Richard Tregaskis, Wa de Lock to Mrs. S.L. Pratt, Ballarat North Establishing a fence and difficulties faced. 13 February 1891 4pp. (1 sheet)	
1/9	E. Franklin Tregaskis [Wa de Lock] to Mrs. S.L. Pratt, Ballarat General comments - McDonald's visiting shortly, weather, personal comments, etc. n.d. 4pp. (1 sheet)	
1/10	E. Franklin Tregaskis, [Wa de Lock] to Mrs. S.L. Pratt, Ballarat Stephens is to teach him how to make eucalyptus oil. n.d. 1pp. (1 sheet)	
1/11	E. Franklin Tregaskis [Wa de Lock] to R. Tregaskis Mentions a wall to be built, the fence and eucalyptus oil. n.d. 4pp. (1 sheet)	
1/12	Richard Tregaskis, Wa de Lock to Mrs. S.L. Pratt, Ballarat Continuing working the land, clearing the area, burning logs, improvement on the surroundings, etc. 20 February 1891 4pp. (1 sheet)	
1/13	E. Franklin Tregaskis [Wa de Lock] to Mrs. S.L. Pratt, Ballarat Commenced building the house. March 1891 1p. (1 sheet)	
1/14	E. Franklin Tregaskis, Wa de Lock to Mrs. S.L. Pratt, Ballarat Greetings, etc. to his sister's children, father went away for a few weeks and gradual development of matters in Briagolong. 20 March 1891 4pp. (1 sheet)	
1/15	Mrs. A. Palmer, Trafalgar to Mrs. S.L. Pratt, Ballarat Greetings and letting Mrs. Pratt know that their father is well. 10 April 1891 1p.	

GROUP 1. CORRESPONDENCE (cont.)

- 1/16 Richard Tregaskis, Trafalgar to Mrs. S.L. Pratt, Ballarat
How he is feeling, Edward buying secondhand requisites
for her house in Melbourne at low prices. Pick up door,
windows, etc. secondhand. Dam was half-filled in half
and hour.
10 April 1891
2pp. (1 sheet)
- 1/17 Richard Tregaskis [Wa de Lock] to Mrs. S.L. Pratt, Ballarat
Frame-work of building almost done. Cost of equipment
bought.
Enclosure: E. Franklin Tregaskis, Wa de Lock to Mrs. S.L.
Pratt, Ballarat
Proceedings in buildings and costs of hiring
and goods mentioned.
29 April 1891
4pp. (2 sheets)
- 1/18 Richard Tregaskis, Wa de Lock to Mrs. S.L. Pratt, Ballarat
Fencing continuing. Work and weather running smoothly.
2 May 1891
2pp. (1 sheet)
- 1/19 E. Franklin Tregaskis to Mrs. S.L. Pratt, Ballarat
Arrangement to send money for wire. Building continuing.
May 1891
2pp. (1 sheet)
- 1/20 R. Tregaskis, Briagolong to Mrs. S.L. Pratt, Ballarat
Progress report and plan of house and land.
July 1891
3pp. (2 sheets)
- 1/21 Richard and Edward Franklin Tregaskis, Wa de Lock to
Mrs. S.L. Pratt, Ballarat
Weather and condition of orchards. Nearly all trees have
been planted, fear of rain. Fencing and building progressing
well.
21 August 1891
2pp. (2 sheets)
- 1/22 Richard Tregaskis, Wa de Lock to Mrs. S.L. Pratt, Ballarat
Half the wire came and fence will be finished soon. Slabs
brought to the orchards, trenches almost finished. Where
they get their food from and what food. Other people's
attitudes toward the building going on and asking for money.
October 1891
4pp. (1 sheet)

GROUP 1.	CORRESPONDENCE	(cont.)
1/23	Richard Tregaskis, Wa de Lock to Mrs. S.L. Pratt, Ballarat Minor incidents at building site. 10 October 1891 2pp. (1 sheet)	
1/24	Richard Tregaskis, Wa de Lock to Mrs. S.L. Pratt, Ballarat Feelings of relief after receiving money, fear of some hinderance getting in the way of completing fence. Building almost finished, orchards looking beautiful, weather is perfect. House is developing - greetings. 9 November 1891 4pp. (1 sheet)	
1/25	E. Franklin Tregaskis, Wa de Lock to Mrs. S.L. Pratt, Ballarat Made fires to frighten wallabies away. Trees growing well - chestnuts, walnuts, current bushes, wattle bark. Clearing and burning off and planting seed. Bark selling at £14 per ton. Fence longer than survey. 11 November 1891 4pp. (1 sheet)	
1/26	Richard Tregaskis [Wa de Lock] to Mrs. S.L. Pratt, Ballarat Borrow two horses to haul the windows for house. Personal family matters. Bark roof and door on the house. 24 ? 1891 4pp. (1 sheet)	
1/27	Richard Tregaskis, Wa de Lock to Mrs. S.L. Pratt, Ballarat Greetings - work completed 18 December 1891 3pp. (1 sheet)	
1/28	Richard Tregaskis, Wa de Lock to Mrs. S. L. Pratt, Ballarat Price of transport mentioned. Trouble in getting a dog onto public transport. Greetings to the children and family. Report of Minnie's schooling. 29 January 1892 4pp. (1 sheet)	
1/29	E. Franklin Tregaskis [Wa de Lock] to Mrs. S.L. Pratt, Ballarat Personal comments and a mention of eucalyptus. 29 January 1892 4pp. (2 sheets)	
1/30	E. Franklin Tregaskis, Wa de Lock to Mrs. S.L. Pratt, Ballarat Grazing land not very valuable. Very little first-class land and a company being formed at Briagolong to start a cannery for fruit. 9 March 1892 4pp. (1 sheet)	

GROUP 1. CORRESPONDENCE (cont.)

- 1/31 Richard Tregaskis, Wa de Lock to Mrs. S.L. Pratt, Ballarat
General comments on the progress of work at Briagolong.
1 April 1892
2pp. (1 sheet)
- 1/32 Richard Tregaskis, Briagolong to Mrs. S.L. Pratt, Ballarat
Main food eaten, progress on dam, water, cattle, etc.
May 1892
3pp. (1 sheet)
- 1/33 E. Franklin Tregaskis, Briagolong to Mrs. S.L. Pratt,
Ballarat
Comments on health, children and unexpected parcel, etc.
May 1892
2pp. (1 sheet)
- 1/34 Richard Tregaskis to Mrs. S.L. Pratt and Edward, Ballarat
There will be great demand for eucalyptus as a cholera
plague broke out - figures of deaths. General comments
on how he feels and about Minnie's (Mrs. Pratt's daughter)
education, etc. Vegetables are scarce and only potatoes
are available all year round and at every meal.
September 1892
4pp. (1 sheet)
2pp. (1 sheet) (extract from letter)
- 1/35 Richard Tregaskis, Briagolong to Mrs. S.L. Pratt, Ballarat
Larger yields of eucalyptus. Goods bought and sold at
Maffra and Stratford. Stores being supplied with eucalyptus.
26 May 1893
2pp. (1 sheet)
- 1/36 Richard Tregaskis, Wa de Lock to Mrs. S.L. Pratt, Ballarat
Little short on money for a while. Trying to make
eucalyptus into money. Banks not giving money as they
used to - money is scarce. Their eucalyptus has established
a good name in their neighbourhood.
May (?) 1893
2pp. (1 sheet)
- 1/37 Richard Tregaskis, Wa de Lock to Mrs. S.L. Pratt, Ballarat
Price of eucalyptus, plan to sell eucalyptus in bulk and
increase production as soon as their capital allows it.
Asks about the family and mentions business relationships.
Also their home and how it will be in the future.
14 July 1893
2pp. (1 sheet)

GROUP 1. CORRESPONDENCE (cont.)

- 1/38 E. Franklin Tregaskis, Wa de Lock to Mrs. S.L. Pratt,
Ballarat
Greetings, general comments, mentions deals and business
with eucalyptus.
July ? 1893
2pp. (1 sheet)
- 1/39 Extract of letter from E. Franklin Tregaskis, [Wa de Lock]
to Mrs. S.L. Pratt
Weather, condition of the dam, business offers and prices
offered, etc.
(?) 1893
2pp. (1 sheet)
- 1/40 R. Tregaskis, Trafalgar to Mrs. S.L. Pratt, Ballarat
General and personal comments, weather, greetings.
11 September 1893
2pp. (1 sheet)
- 1/41 M. Palmer, Trafalgar to Mrs. S.L. Pratt, Ballarat
General and personal comments.
September (?) 1893
4pp. (1 sheet)
- 1/42 (?) to Mr. Tregaskis and family, Ballarat
Weather, comments about family and other general comments.
January 1894
1pp. (card)