



THE UNIVERSITY OF MELBOURNE ARCHIVES

NAME OF COLLECTION	WELLS, WALTER F.
ACCESSION NO	1978.0050
CATEGORY ACTIVITY	Community and Political, individuals
DATE RANGE	1874-1936
SIZE OF COLLECTION	1 box (.08m)
HISTORICAL NOTE	This collection of itemised accounts and other records kept by W.F. Wells of Victoria was accompanied by a manuscript note (kept with the collection) supplying the following information: When Walter Wells was eleven years he left school in Beechworth. He worked as a cook for a surveyor, and went droving into New South Wales to support the family. Over most of the period covered by the records, Wells worked as a repairer for the Victorian Railways, but also found work with farmers.
DATE OF TRANSFER	24/01/1978
ACCESS CONDITIONS	Access: Open
DESCRIPTION	Household accounts; minutes of local organisations (area around Beechworth)
NOTE ON COLLECTIONS	In addition to the accounts, the collection includes some minutes of organisations in which Wells was interested: th Blue Ribbon Army (a temperance body) and the short-lived Gapstead Brass Band.
NOTE ON LISTING	
LISTED BY	Cecily Close, Senior Archivist
DATE	August 1978

78/50

UNIVERSITY OF MELBOURNE ARCHIVES

RECORDS RECEIVED INTO CUSTODY.

NAME: Walter F. WELLS

ADDRESS: Deceased.

TRANSFEROR: Professor Weston Bate.

DATE OF
TRANSFER: 24 Jan. 1978.

INCLUSIVE
DATES: 1874 - 1936.

QUANTITY: One thick envelope.

DESCRIPTION: Household accounts and brief minutes of local organisations.

GENERAL NOTE: This collection of itemized accounts and other records kept by W.F. Wells of Gapstead, Victoria, was accompanied by a manuscript note (kept with collection) supplying the following information: When Walter Wells was eleven years old he left the school in Beechworth, to which he had had to walk the three miles from Murmungee. He worked as cook for a surveyor, and went droving into N.S.W. to help support the family.

Over most of the period covered by the records, Wells worked as a repairer for the Victorian Railways, but also found work with farmers. The sums brought into the household from various sources by Wells, his wife and their children ("a family of 10") are carefully recorded.

In addition to the accounts, the collection includes some minutes of organisations in which Wells was interested: the Blue Ribbon Army (a temperance body) and the short-lived Gapstead Brass Band.

LIST OF RECORDS:

1. Fragment of memorandum book 16 x 10 cm.
Itemized expenditure and receipts (harvest wages) while employed by J.J. Munro 1874-76, and by other farmers in horse driving etc. to 1878; "Things bought for Willie", for W.F.W. and for J.A.W. 1898. (At top right-hand corner of the first page is written wrongly in biro "1854".)
2. Memorandum book 16 x 10 cm. Inkstained white cover. Expenditure and receipts Jan. 1892 - Jan. 1909, notes re sons' earnings and paying off a debt. Also: Minutes of Church, Stony Creek, an "Undenominational Church to be used by any Evangelists, Blue Ribbon or Band of Hope Societies only" (minutes consist only of resolutions as to purpose and control of building, one of which is dated 4 May 1885).

3. Memorandum book 16 x 10 cm. Cover missing.
Expenditure and receipts on account of various customers, Aug. 1908.-
Jan. 1916 (work done consists of loading, weighing and unloading
animals, wool, grain etc. for farmers).
4. Memorandum Book 18 x 11 cm. Black cover.
Receipts and expenditure. 22 Feb. 1923 - 18 June 1936.
At back, note of Norman's bad fall from bicycle, interest
and dividends due at Cobton, Rail stations, names and distances
between Albury and Wagga and dates of railway openings Everton to
Beechworth and Myrtleford, annual wool sales, cost of kerosene etc.
5. Exercise-book without cover containing for first few pages
arithmetical exercises and dictation. Then: copy of circular
letter from office of Engineer for Existing Lines, Railway Dept.,
6 Aug. 1895, to Gangers and Repairers, asking them to reply to
questions concerning working hours. Answers are inserted by Wells
in the copy. A draft is loose in book. Notes re Victorian Railway
Passes and overtime received, grocers', butchers', lodge accounts,
1891, and settlements of accounts 1893-1895.
6. Exercise-book containing minutes of Public meeting at the State
School No. 2240, 30 Jan. 1888, resolving that Band be
established and instruments brought by intending members (minutes
taken by M. Thos. Hall, School teacher, Palmerston). Minutes of
members of the Gapstead Brass Band (at first called the Palmerston
Brass Band) are recorded for monthly meetings to 18 May 1889
(decision had been made to amalgamate with the Myrtleford Brass
Band).
Note of General Election 1892 for Ovens. Results for Ferguson
and G.V. Smith. Copy of letter from Railway Office of Engineer
of Existing Lines, 9 April 1892, to Repairer W.F. Wells and
Gatekeeper J.A. Wells at No. 7 gate, Bowman's Forest, re
abolition of gates and construction of cattle pits, but offering
Wells continued use of gate house for 7/- per week (W.F. Wells
signifies willingness to pay), and copy is headed "Gatekeepers
Curse". Loose: memorandum that gate was pitted and removed mid-
July 1893, and notes re gauges on verso of application for refund
of railway fare, 19 June 1891.
List of 'things for a picnic of 100 persons'. Credits and debits
"Stewards from Easter Sports Tilt at the ring Money Sub". Election
results Ferguson and Isaacs (n.d.)
7. Exercise-book containing Minutes of Blue Ribbon Army, Stony Creek,
19 April 1884 - 18 April 1888 (in favour of local option).
Loose: carbon copy of letter W.F. Wells to A.D. Western (Solicitor?)
Porepunkah, 25/5/1908, querying request for payment of £1 a block
for Crown Grant for his "65 holding at Palmerston", in connection
with which ~~Western~~ appears to have done little. Copy of follow-up
letter 13/6/1908, in which ~~Western~~ gives notice of intention to
manage the application himself. Order for groceries from Barnes,
6 Nov. 1910.

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8. Signed blank claim form from Victorian Railways. On verso statement of time worked by W.F. Wells, weeks ending 6/1/1917 and 13/1/1917.
 9. William G. Wells, Account. Receipts and expenditure in connection with illness and death. On verso: sketch of position of (presumably) graves.
 10. Receipted invoices: J.B. Robertson Pty Ltd, General Storekeepers Myrtleford, for boots, n.d. but 1900 or later. Chandlers' Hardware Stores, 234-236 Flinders Lane, Melbourne, and Fitzroy, for grate. 1933. Shows registered trade-mark of kangaroo carrying rifle.
 11. Rate notice from Shire of Beechworth, Dec. 1928, on house and land, 51-49-50 acres, Gapstead.
 12. Directions for making a Will. Printed leaf (pp.41-42) from a book (no title or date).

Cecily Close,
Senior Archivist

August 1978.