



THE UNIVERSITY OF MELBOURNE ARCHIVES

NAME OF COLLECTION	BUTLER FAMILY
ACCESSION NO	A.1963.0020
CATEGORY ACTIVITY	Other, individuals
DATE RANGE	1846-1876
SIZE OF COLLECTION	6 cm.
HISTORICAL NOTE	<p>Captain Gerald V. Butler was appointed Government Resident at Guichen Bay (near Mt. Gambier) in 1846. He moved to Hobart in 1849. His son, Lieutenant Villars Butler saw action in New Zealand in 1863-64 before returning to Ireland. Villar's cousin, Walter, arrived in Melbourne in 1854 and worked in the Customs Department before joining the Gold Warden's office at Beechworth in 1856. Joel Smith Tompkins, presumably an acquaintance of Walter's, was an American who went to the Beechworth gold diggings in 1853.</p>
DATE OF TRANSFER	1963
ACCESS CONDITIONS	Access: Open
LISTED BY DATE	Patricia Marcard April 1964

UNIVERSITY OF MELBOURNE ARCHIVES

RECORDS RECEIVED INTO CUSTODY

NAME: BUTLER FAMILY

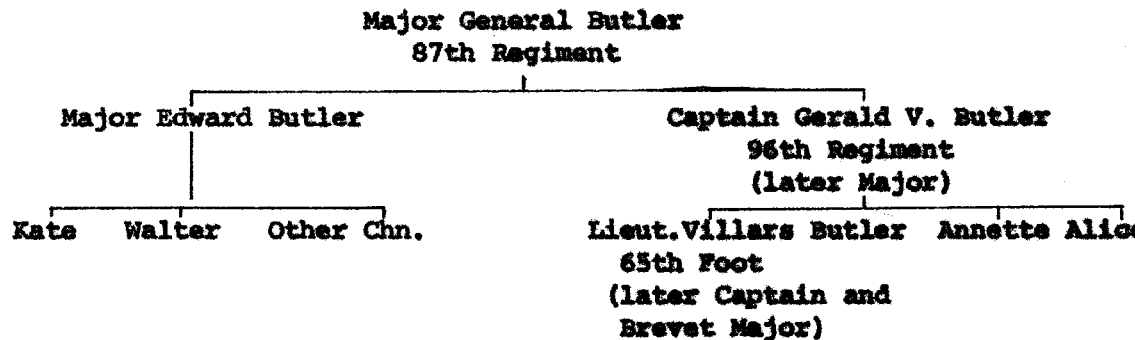
ADDRESS: Deceased. Transferred by Mr. W.V. Butler,

MAIN ACTIVITY: Residents in Victoria, South Australia, Tasmania,
and New Zealand, 1840s to 1870s.

TRANSFEROR:

DATE OF TRANSFER: 1963

GENERAL NOTE: (See also introductions to individual items)
The relevant family relationships are as follows:



LIST OF RECORDS:

GROUP 1. Mrs. Butler, wife of Captain Gerald V. Butler, Diary

GROUP 2. John Blahaney, letters to Major Edward Butler

GROUP 3. Walter Butler, letters to his family in Ireland

GROUP 4. Kate Butler, inwards letters

GROUP 5. Captain Villars Butler, papers concerning military career

GROUP 6. Joel Smith Tompkins, reminiscences

GROUP 1. MRS. BUTLER, DIARY

1 envelope, ms.
1846 and 1849

- 1/1 Describes voyage from Adelaide to Quicker Bay (near Mt. Gambier) where Captain Butler was to be Government Resident, and the establishment of a tent and hut settlement there. Gives a brief but solid indication of pioneering trials.
23 October 1846 - 23 November 1846.
- 1/2 Trip to Launceston (from Quicker Bay?) and overland to Hobart Town. Details of day to day personal activities in Hobart.
19 April 1849 - 25 June 1849.

GROUP 2. JOHN BLAHENEY, Colonial Secretary's Office, Melbourne, letters to Major Edward Butler, Bally Adams, Athy, Ireland

1 envelope, ms.
1854-1855

- 2/1 Notes overstuffed Government offices in Melbourne and mentions Government pay.
23 July 1854.
- 2/2 27 October 1854.
- 2/3 Notes low ebb in Walter Butler's fortunes.
15 August 1855.

GROUP 3. WALTER BUTLER, letters to his family in Ireland

Mainly concerned with family news, hopes of a reunion, and details of weather. Most letters note an enclosure of money for his parents. They provide quite good insights into a man who was not very happy in the Colony.

Walter Butler arrived in Melbourne in 1854, stayed with his aunt and uncle and worked first in a Government Department (possibly Customs House). Mid 1856 joined a regiment which was stationed mainly at Beechworth.

1 envelope, ms.
4 February 1854 - 27 February 1873.

- 3/1 To his father and mother from Ship 'Mersey', Table Bay.
4 February 1854.
- 3/2 To his mother, from Melbourne.
Opinion of people who would do well in Melbourne.
8 September 1854.
- 3/3 To his father, from Melbourne.
29 September 1854.
- 3/4 To his father, from H.M. Customs, Queens Wharf, Melbourne.
9 November 1854.

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- GROUP 3. WALTER BUTLER, letters to his family in Ireland cont.
- 3/5 To his mother, from Melbourne.
Butler's aunt is using a building society to get a house.
8 January 1855.
- 3/6 To his father, from Melbourne.
8 January 1855.
- 3/7 To his mother, from Melbourne.
14 February 1855.
Reduction of Government service salaries. Gives an account of his monthly expenditure, including a sum to a Land Society in the hope of eventually having a farm. Dislike of Colony - Colonial girls, Colonial concern with money. Wants an overseership in the bush as feels there is more future in working for himself than the government.
- 3/8 To his mother, from Melbourne.
Notes general poverty of Colonists.
30 April 1855.
- 3/9 To his father, from Melbourne.
Dissatisfied with prospects - present Government job insecure and with poor prospects socially and domestically. Can not get a job in the bush. Has applied for commission in Ceylon Rifles. Steps taken to obtain the commission, (see also 10-13 below on this).
14 August 1855.
- 3/10 To his father, from Melbourne.
15 August 1855.
- 3/11 Side 1. To Villiers Butler
29 September 1855.

Side 2. To his mother.
n.d.
- 3/12 To his mother, from Melbourne.
9 February 1856.
- 3/13 To Villiers Butler, from Melbourne.
11 March 1856.
- 3/14 To his mother, from Camp Beechworth.
17 August 1856.
- 3/15 To his mother, from Camp Beechworth.
6 December 1856.
- 3/16 To his mother, from Camp Beechworth.
17 January 1857.
- 3/17 To Kate Butler, from Sale.
23 February 1857.
- 3/18 To his mother, from Camp Beechworth.
Fears a salary reduction with change of Ministry.
9 March 1857.

GROUP 3. WALTER BUTLER, letters to his family in Ireland cont.

- 3/19 To his mother, from Camp Beechworth.
23 March 1857.
- 3/20 To his mother, from Camp Beechworth.
18 May 1857.
- 3/21 To his father, from Camp Beechworth.
11 June 1857.
- 3/22 To his mother, from Camp Beechworth.
Notes current fighting between Chinese and Europeans which is
expected to spread over all the goldfields.
11 July 1857.
- 3/23 To his mother, Beechworth.
21 August 1857.
- 3/24 To his mother, from Camp Beechworth.
8 September 1857.
- 3/25 To his mother, from Camp Beechworth.
12 December 1857.
- 3/26 To his mother, from Camp Beechworth.
12 January 1858.
- 3/27 To his mother, from Camp Beechworth.
Notes so many good types are trying to get into the police force
that a large number are being rejected.
13 March 1858.
- 3/28 To his mother, from Camp Beechworth.
13 March 1858.
- 3/29 To his mother, from Camp Beechworth.
Describes new ministry as Roman Catholic and low Irish. Own
domestic affairs.
#3 April 1858.
- 3/30 To his father, from Camp Beechworth.
Dearness of food and clothes at Beechworth.
13 May 1858.
- 3/31 To his mother, from Beechworth.
13 May 1858.
- 3/32 To his mother, from Camp Beechworth.
Reasons for going to Beechworth in 1856.
10 July 1858.
- 3/33 To his mother, from South Yarra, Melbourne.
14 July 1858.
- 3/34 To his mother, from Camp Beechworth.
Appointed (honorary) warden of nearby goldfields - difficulties of the
post and its expenses.
12 November 1858.

GROUP 3. WALTER BUNNER, letters to his family in Ireland cont.

- 3/35 To his mother, from Walguseyale.
21 October 1860.
- 3/36 To Kate, from Sale.
26 November 1866 (?).
- 3/37 To Kate, from Beechworth.
27 February 1873.
- 3/38 To his mother, from 8 Avenue Road, (Great Britain)
n.d. (before sailing for Australia, i.e. before February 1854)
- 3/39 To Kate, from 8 Avenue Road (G.B.)
n.d. (as 38 above).
- 3/40 To his father.
n.d. (16 August 1855?)
- 3/41 To his mother.
n.d. (15 July (later than 1855)).
- 3/42 Letter without head, address, or date. Probably from Melbourne
and after March 1856.
- 3/43 Letter without head, address, or date. Last page only.
- 3/44 To his mother, from Camp Beechworth.
Written on a Beechworth letter sheet.
- 3/45 To his mother, no date or address.
- 3/46 To his mother, no date or address.
- 3/47 Letter on back of picture of Camp Buildings, Beechworth, showing
Superintendent of Police's House, Police Office, Stable, Gold
Receiver's Quarters.
n.d.

GROUP 4. KATE BUTLER, Inwards Letters

- 4/1 Annette F. Butler to Date Butler, from South Yarra.
n.d. (mid 1850s?).
- 4/2 ? Butler to Kate, from 11 Synnott Place.
n.d.
- 4/3 ? to Kate (possibly Captain Gerald Butler's wife or daughters)
from South Yarra.
19 July, no year given.

GROUP 5. CAPTAIN (LATER BREVET MAJOR) VILLARS BUTLER, PAPERS

Villars Butler spent his boyhood and youth in Adelaide, Tasmania, and Melbourne. March 1858 commissioned as ensign 65th foot. Served in New Zealand wars. Died single, of a heart disease, in London, 10 July 1874.

1 envelope
March 1858 - 1874

- 5/1 Villars Butler, gentleman, appointment as an ensign, 65th foot 9 March 1858.
- 5/2 Ensign Villars Butler, order to join Corps. 29 March 1858.
- 5/3 Colonel A.F.W. Wyatt (65th foot) to the Military Secretary, Letter.
Report on action at Camerontown, 7 September 1863. Mentions Lieut. V. Butler injured.
copy, ms.
11 September, 1863
- 5/4 Lieut. General Cameron to His Excellency Sir George Grey, Letter.
Recommends Villars Butler for special notice.
copy, ms.
11 September 1863.
- 5/5 Lieut. General Cameron to Secretary of State for War. Extract from Dispatch.
~~Mentions~~ Lieut. V. Butler.
copy, ms.
5 October 1864 (?)
- 5/6 Lieut. V. Butler. Certificate of having attended training at School of Musketry, Hythe, and knowledge of musketry signs, and qualification to teach Patoon Exercises and Position Drill. 6 November 1866.
- 5/7 A. Wyatt of 65th Foot (High Street Barracks, Dublin) to Villars Butler.
Letter 5 December 1868.
Encl. Dispatch extract, Lieut. General Cameron to His Excellency the Governor of New Zealand. Mentions V. Butler.
copy, ms.
11 September 1863.
- 5/8 Lieut. V. Butler, Appointment as Captain in the 65th foot 9 June 1870.
- 5/9 Captain V. Butler to ?. Letter.
Requests consideration for a Brevet Major.
5 July 1870.
- 5/10 R.H. MacGregor, commander 65th foot, to the Military Secretary, Royal Hospital, Dublin, Letter.
copy, ms.
Recommends Villars Butler for a Brevet Major.
10 July 1870.

GROUP 5. CAPTAIN (LATER BREVET MAJOR) VILLARS BUTLER, PAPERS

- 5/11 Captain Villars Butler, qualified to instruct Army Signalling. From the School of Military Engineering, Chatham. 2 August 1870.
- 5/12 Sidney Gosborne, Army Purchase Commissions, London, to Captain V. Butler. Letter Notification that will receive £700 for his commission on retirement. 6 September 1873.
- 5/13 Alice and Annette Butler to Queen Victoria, Petition. That the petitioners be granted the ~~£1000~~ Villars Butler (their brother) would have received for his commission had he not died. n.d. (after July 1874.)

GROUP 6. REMINISCENCES OF JOEL SMITH TOMPKINS OF NEW BRUNSWICK, AMERICA

Tompkins was one of a party of 15 Americans who arrived in Melbourne early 1853. After adventures with an unprincipled 'guide and drayman', they camped near the Woolshed gold field, by Beechworth.

The reminiscences contain some descriptions of the Beechworth diggings, unrest, sly grogging, prices, and the character of Mr. M. Myers, a cadet in charge of the Woolshed police. Also account of trip to Beechworth from Melbourne.

25p. ms.

Dated Beaufort, 1 November 1896.

Signed: J.O. 26 November 1896.

Patricia Marcard
Assistant Archivist
April 1964.