

AUSTRALIAN JOINT COPYING PROJECT

BROWN FAMILY

Papers, 1841-1983

Reel M 1877

**Keats Memorial Library
Keats House
Keats Grove
Hampstead London NM3 2RR**

**National Library of Australia
State Library of New South Wales**

Filmed: 1984

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTES

Charles Armitage Brown (1787-1842) was born in London and had little formal education. He started his career as a clerk and as a young man was engaged in the fur-trading business in Russia. In 1817 he met the poet John Keats and together they did a tour of Scotland. For 15 months they shared lodgings at Wentworth Place, a house in Hampstead, and Brown cared for Keats when he developed tuberculosis. He was away in Scotland when Keats left England for Rome, where he died in 1821. In 1822 Brown took his son Carlino to Italy and they lived at Pisa and Florence, sharing a house with the artist Joseph Severn. While living in Italy he met many writers, such as Lord Byron, Walter Savage Landor, Leigh Hunt and Edward Trelawny.

In 1835 Brown and Carlino returned to England and settled at Plymouth. In 1840 he became a shareholder in the Plymouth Company, which aimed to colonise New Plymouth in New Zealand. In straitened circumstances, he decided that they should emigrate to New Plymouth. Carlino sailed on the *Amelia Thompson* and Charles on the *Oriental*, arriving in October 1841. He died suddenly in the following year.

Brown completed a memoir of John Keats in 1836, but it was not published until 1937.

Charles (Carlino) Brown (1820-1901) was the son of Charles Armitage Brown and Abigail O'Donohue. He spent his early years in Italy and, after returning to England with his father, he was apprenticed as a millwright. He migrated to New Zealand in 1841 and established a successful timber business at New Plymouth. He later founded a newspaper, the *Taranaki Times*. He became a member of the militia in 1855 and fought against the Maoris in the Taranaki wars. In 1853 he was elected the first Superintendent of the Taranaki Provincial Government, holding the position until 1857 and again in 1861-66. He served for brief periods between 1858 and 1870 in the New Zealand Parliament. He lived in New Plymouth for the rest of his life. In the 1890s Brown donated Keats memorabilia to the Keats House in London.

BROWN FAMILY

Reel M1877

1 Notebook of Charles A. Brown, 1841-42.

Written in a 1838 diary and partly in code, the notebook mainly comprises notes made on the voyage of the *Oriental* to New Zealand (June-Oct. 1841), with daily longitudes and latitudes and copies of letters.

2 C. A. Brown (Plymouth) to Carlino Brown, 13 April 1841: preparations for departure; selection of properties in New Zealand; sale of cottage.

3 Portrait by Joseph Severn of Carlino Brown as a boy.

4 Certificate, signed by Governor T. Gore Brown, appointing C. Brown as Colonial Treasurer of New Zealand, 20 May 1856.

5 Certificate, signed by Sir George Grey, appointing C. Brown as a major in the Taranaki Militia, 17 Nov. 1864.

6 J. Trelawny (Monmouth) to C. Brown, 3 Jan. 1852: Brown's dislike of New Zealand; farming activities; Brown's marriage; lack of incentive for labourers to go to New Zealand.

7 W.S. Landor (Bath) to C. Brown, 29 Oct. 1853: thanks for *Taranaki Herald*; congratulations on appointment as Superintendent of New Plymouth.

8 M. Snooke (Chichester) to C. Brown, 4 Nov. 1853: thanks for *Taranaki Herald*; appointment as Superintendent.

9 W.S. Landor (Florence) to C. Brown, 16 July 1863: thanks for *New Plymouth Journal*; shameful treatment of Maoris; American Civil War.

10 Letters of Mona Osborne (Auckland), daughter of C. Brown, to D. Kilgour and Joanna Richardson, 1948-54: information and anecdotes about C.A. Brown; annotated books; portraits; Coronation celebrations in New Zealand; notebook of C.A. Brown; Richardson's book on Fanny Brawne. (10 letters)

11 Freda Harley. Painting of 'The Pines', the home of C. Brown at New Plymouth.

12 Beverley A. Mitchell. Charles Armitage Brown family tree (New Plymouth, 1983).

Note: the quality of this film is very poor and many pages are illegible.