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VYVYAN FAMILY

Correspondence, 1857-68

Reel M402

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BIOGRAPHICAL NOTES

Sir Richard Rawlinson Vyvyan (1800-1879), 8th Baronet, the son of Sir Vyell Vyvyan, 7th Baronet, was born at Trelowarren, Cornwall. He was educated at Harrow and Christ Church, Oxford, although he did not graduate. He succeeded to the family estates in Cornwall on the death of his father in 1820. He was a Tory parliamentarian, representing Cornwall (1825-31), Okehampton (1831-32), Bristol (1832-37) and Helston (1841-57). He was the High Sheriff of Cornwall in 1840-41. Vyvian had a strong interest in metaphysics and carried out experiments on light, heat and magnetism. He was elected a Fellow of the Royal Society in 1826 and he was also a Fellow of the Geological Society. He was unmarried.

Vyell Francis Vyvyan (1801-1877), the brother of Sir Richard Vyvyan, was educated at Ottery St Mary, Devon, and Trinity College, Cambridge. He was ordained as a priest in 1825 and was the rector of Withiel, near Bodmin in Cornwall, from 1825 until his death. He married Anna Taylor in 1825 and they had nine sons and four daughters.

Sir Vyell Donnithorne Vyvyan (1826-1917), 9th Baronet, was the eldest son of Rev. Vyell Vyvyan and his wife Anna. He was educated at St John's College, Cambridge. He was ordained as a priest in 1855 and was the rector of Winterbourne-Monkton, Dorset (1856-66), the vicar of Broad Hinton, Wiltshire (1866-77) and the rector of Withiel, Cornwall (1877-79). He succeeded to the baronetcy on the death of his uncle in 1879. He married Louisa Bouchier in 1857 and they had four children.

Thomas Henry Vyvyan (1827-1908) was the second son of Rev. Vyell Vyvyan and his wife Anna. He enlisted in the 52nd Regiment in 1846 and was made a lieutenant in 1848. He married Mary Ellen Salisbury in 1850 and they had three sons and five daughters. They lived in New Zealand from 1853 to 1867.

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V Papers of Vyvyan Family of Trelowarren, Mawgan in Meneage, c. 1240-1921

Correspondence, 1857-68

1. Rev. Vyell F. Vyvyan (Withiel) to his brother Sir Richard Vyvyan, 17 April 1860: letter sent to his son Henry Vyvyan calling on him to return home from New Zealand; with five children he will need a definite object; question of farming.
2. Rev. Vyell Vyvyan to Sir Richard Vyvyan, 30 April 1857: payment of rent; seeks allowance for his eldest son, Vyell Donnithorne Vyvyan; his trip to New Zealand; low returns from New Zealand; cattle prices declining; financial matters.
3. Rev. Vyell Vyvyan to Sir Richard Vyvyan, 18 May 1860: drafting of a will; meaning of 'widow' and 'duty'; G. Garibaldi.
4. Rev. Vyell Vyvyan to Sir Richard Vyvyan, 29 Oct. 1860: wording of will.
5. Anna Vyvyan to Sir Richard Vyvyan, 13 Nov [1860]: marriage of her fifth son, Herbert Vyvyan.
6. Rev. Vyell Vyvyan to Sir Richard Vyvyan, 1 July 1860: financial matter.
7. Rev. Vyell Vyvyan to Sir Richard Vyvyan, 9 Jan. 1861: acknowledges allowance for Henry Vyvyan; other financial matters.
8. Rev. Vyell Vyvyan to Sir Richard Vyvyan, 19 Nov. 1860: thanks for allowance for his son Herbert Vyvyan on occasion of his marriage; marriage settlement.
9. Sir Richard Vyvyan (Trelowarren) to Rev. Vyell Vyvyan, 10 Jan. 1861: advises no further communication with Miss Hoare; her threat of legal proceedings.
10. Rev. Vyell Vyvyan to Sir Richard Vyvyan, 8 Jan. 1861: letter from Miss Hoare.
11. Rev. Vyell Vyvyan to Sir Richard Vyvyan, 3 April 1861: requests Richard use his influence with Lord Palmerston to secure for him the deanery of Exeter.
12. Sir Richard Vyvyan to Rev. Vyell Vyvyan, 6 April 1861: refuses to approach Lord Palmerston; no chance of the application being successful.
13. Rev. Vyell Vyvyan to Sir Richard Vyvyan, n.d.: Mr Hicks; mining speculation.

14. Sir Richard Vyvyan to Rev. Vyell Vyvyan, 5 Jan. 1861: Reginald Vyvyan; income from land made over to him.
15. Bill for £100 payable to account of Henry Vyvyan at Union Bank of Australia, Nelson, New Zealand, 11 July 1861.
16. Sir Richard Vyvyan to Henry Vyvyan, 14 July 1861: encloses bill; from the outset he thought Henry's prospects in New Zealand were poor; has tried not to interfere with his father's decisions; Henry's determination to remain in New Zealand. (copy)
17. Anna Vyvyan to Sir Richard Vyvyan, 16 July 1861: Sir Richard's unkind letter to her husband about Reginald Vyvyan. (very long letter)
18. Sir Richard Vyvyan to Rev Vyell Vyvyan, 19 July 1861: letter of Anna Vyvyan 'evidently written under strong excitement'; recalls visit of Vyell and Reginald Vyvyan in Jan. 1859; corrects misstatements.
19. Rev. Vyell Vyvyan to Sir Richard Vyvyan, 27 July 1861: defends his wife's statements concerning visit in 1859.
20. Rev. Vyell Vyvyan to Sir Richard Vyvyan, 5 Sept. 1861: wedding.
21. Anna Vyvyan to Sir Richard Vyvyan, 4 March 1862: Sir Richard's kindness in sending money to Henry Vyvyan; afflictions of Henry's wife; his land grant; Herbert's engagement and other family news.
22. Rev. Vyell Vyvyan to Sir Richard Vyvyan, 1 May 1863: difficulties of his son Vyell D. Vyvyan and his family; need to find him a better living; the living was procured by his father-in-law from Lord Ilchester.
23. Sir Richard Vyvyan to Rev. Vyell Vyvyan, 6 May 1863: attaches letter from R.J. Bourchier concerning financial difficulties of Vyell D. Vyvyan; enquires about names of children of Vyell and Henry.
24. Rev. Vyell Vyvyan to Sir Richard Vyvyan, 8 May 1863: sends names of children.
25. Rev. Vyell Donnithorne Vyvyan to his uncle Sir Richard Vyvyan, 21 Oct. 1863: thanks for generous assistance.
26. Rev. Vyell Vyvyan to Sir Richard Vyvyan, 3 Dec.: financial matters.
27. Rev. Vyell Vyvyan to Sir Richard Vyvyan, 24 Dec. 1863: decision of Henry Vyvyan and his wife to return to England; education of their boys; news of Edmund Vyvyan working as a surgeon on the New South Wales goldfields; he should come home provided he can continue with his medical training.
28. Rev. Vyell Vyvyan to Sir Richard Vyvyan, 28 Dec. 1863: ambition of Edmund Vyvyan during eight years on goldfields to raise a sufficiency to come home and return to the medical profession; he did not write to his parents for five years.

29. Rev. Vyell Vyvyan to Sir Richard Vyvyan, 24 Feb.: letter from Henry Vyvyan; Miss Hoare's onslaught on Vyell D. Bonython.
30. Rev. Vyell Vyvyan to Sir Richard Vyvyan, 27 April 1864: his visit to Vyell D. Vyvyan; return to their schoolboy haunts; melancholy associations.
31. Rev. Vyell D. Vyvyan to Sir Richard Vyvyan, 5 Jan. 1865: Miss Hoare has taken up residence in Dorchester; intends to have no communication with her.
32. Family tree showing connections of the Vyvyan and Hoare families.
33. Rev. Vyell Vyvyan to Sir Richard Vyvyan, 28 Jan. 1865: letter from Courtenay Vyvyan, son of Vyell D. Vyvyan; Richard is right not to answer it; no news from Henry in New Zealand.
34. Courtenay Vyvyan (London) to Sir Richard Vyvyan, 25 Jan. 1865: requests financial assistance.
35. Rev. Vyell Vyvyan to Sir Richard Vyvyan, 12 Oct. 1865: sends details of sons of Vyell, Henry and Herbert Vyvyan.
36. Rev. Vyell D. Vyvyan to Sir Richard Vyvyan, 2 Jan. 1866: epidemic of scarlet fever in his parish; local affairs.
37. Henry Vyvyan to Sir Richard Vyvyan, 6 April 1868: investments; illness of his father; New Zealand papers; British Government has treated Sir George Grey very badly.
38. Henry Vyvyan to Sir Richard Vyvyan, 7 Aug. 1868: improved health of his father; harvesting.
39. Rev. Vyell Vyvyan to Sir Richard Vyvyan, 1 Sept. 1868: proposed visit to Richard; all his children will be home at the same time, an occurrence that might never be repeated.
40. Rev. Vyell Vyvyan to Sir Richard Vyvyan, 5 [Sept. ?] 1868: Henry's visit to Helston.
41. Henry Vyvyan to Sir Richard Vyvyan, 5 Sept. 1868: accepts invitation; death of Vyell's sister-in-law.
42. Sir Richard Vyvyan. Memorandum on his relations with his nephew Henry Vyvyan and the offer of the farm at Polwin which Henry rejected, 25 Feb. 1868.
43. Supplementary memorandum, Aug.-Sept. 1868.
44. Henry Vyvyan to Sir Richard Vyvyan, 13 Nov. 1868: birth of his daughter; proposed visit.
45. Rev. Vyell D. Vyvyan (Broad Hinton) to Sir Richard Vyvyan, 4 Nov. 1868: lessons in Hebrew advertised by Miss Hoare; has moved into vicarage.
46. Henry Vyvyan (Treviades) to Sir Richard Vyvyan, 25 Oct. 1868: move to Treviades.
47. Henry Vyvyan to Sir Richard Vyvyan, 29 Sept. 1868: move to Treviades; rental of house and garden.

48. Thomas Salisbury (Lancaster) to Sir Richard Vyvyan, 16 Oct. 1868: poverty of his sister Mary Ellen married to Thomas Vyvyan; her approaching confinement; they cannot be blamed for their circumstances.
49. Rev. Vyell Vyvyan to Sir Richard Vyvyan, 13 March 1860: Herbert Vyvyan ordained by Archbishop of Canterbury; curacy near Tonbridge; supports Lord Palmerston in his foreign politics; financial assistance to Henry Vyvyan.
50. Rev. Vyell Vyvyan to Sir Richard Vyvyan, 12 Jan. 1860: receipt of allowance for Henry Vyvyan.
51. Rev. Vyell Vyvyan to Sir Richard Vyvyan, n.d.: news of Henry in New Zealand in letter from Major Gascoyne; his prospects of success in occupying new land; he has a highly favourable position in the neighbourhood.
52. Sir Richard Vyvyan to Rev. Vyell Vyvyan, 20 Oct. 1859: his opposition to Henry going to New Zealand; no knowledge of position of his affianced bride; he married debts rather than a fortune; Richard relinquishes all responsibility for Vyell's family; information about Vyell's children obtained from other quarters. [not sent]
53. Sir Richard Vyvyan to Rev. Vyell Vyvyan, 22 Oct. 1859: Henry Vyvyan's plan to invest £5000 in a sheep farm; letter from Elizabeth Dodson; the longer Henry remains in New Zealand the greater the complications.
54. Elizabeth Dodson (Lancaster) to Sir Richard Vyvyan, 18 Oct. 1859: sends letter from Henry Vyvyan, married to Dodson's niece.
55. Rev. Vyell Vyvyan to Sir Richard Vyvyan, 17 Oct. 1859: charge against his son Reginald Vyvyan; letter from Henry Vyvyan; 'a noble-hearted young man of high and tried principle'; need to discourage him from borrowing £5000.
56. J. Dodson to Henry Vyvyan, 17 Oct. 1859: refuses to send him £5000. (copy)
57. Rev. Vyell Vyvyan to Sir Richard Vyvyan, 26 Nov. 1857: interest rates; financial matters concerning his children.
58. Rev. Vyell Vyvyan to Sir Richard Vyvyan, 24 Oct.: money sent to Vyell D. Vyvyan; refers to peaceful nature of Maoris in South Island, where Henry and his family live.
59. Anna Vyvyan to Sir Richard Vyvyan, 24 Oct.: thanks for gift to her son.
60. Henry Vyvyan (Motueka, near Nelson) to Sir Richard Vyvyan, 1 Dec. 1864: Sir Richard's offer of a Cornish farm; Henry will return to England if he can sell his New Zealand farm; progress in fencing and cultivation; considerable sum of money lent to him by his mother.
61. Henry Vyvyan (Motueka) to Sir Richard Vyvyan, 8 Oct. 1863: sale of upper property; his wife's poor health had made a voyage to England impracticable; he would need to borrow capital at 10% to remain in New Zealand.

62. Henry Vyvyan (Motueka) to Sir Richard Vyvyan, 6 June 1862: thanks for £100; view of mountains from his home; goldfields continue to be productive; work of Sir George Grey in improving relations with Maoris; his wife still an invalid.
63. Henry Vyvyan (Motueka) to Sir Richard Vyvyan, 1 Nov. 1861: thanks for £100; agrees he should have returned to England soon after his arrival in New Zealand; application for a grant as a retired military officer; his wife's poor health; difficulties in selling their property.
64. Henry Vyvyan (Motueka) to Sir Richard Vyvyan, 3 April 1860: commencement of war with Maoris in Taranaki; Maoris in the South Island unlikely to threaten; evacuation of mothers and children from New Plymouth to Nelson; outdoor life; exploration and surveys of the west coast; gold and copper deposits.
65. Henry Vyvyan (Motueka) to Sir Richard Vyvyan, 6 June 1859: six years since he left England; events in Europe; arrival of the first Bishop of Nelson; steam communication with Sydney; sheep farming the only real profitable investment; gold and copper workings; healthy climate of New Zealand.
66. Henry Vyvyan (Motueka) to Sir Richard Vyvyan, 6 July: determination to remain in New Zealand; death of baby son; economic depression; no market for produce; gold discovered near Nelson; family news.
67. Henry Vyvyan (Motueka) to Sir Richard Vyvyan, 6 June 1857: improved prospects for the province of Nelson; Waste Lands Bill; land prices; copper mines at standstill; farming.

Note: The letters were filmed from right to left on the reel, with the first letter appearing at the end of the reel.