

AUSTRALIAN JOINT COPYING PROJECT

MANN FAMILY

Papers, 1836-1909

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BIOGRAPHICAL NOTES

Frederick Gother Mann (1848-1910) was the son of Major-General Gother Frederick Mann (1817-1881) and his wife Margaret. Gother Mann served in the Royal Engineers in China in 1857-60. Frederick Mann emigrated to Western Australia as a young man and worked as a surveyor in country districts and in Perth. He died at Busselton. He was unmarried.

James Saumarez Mann (1820-1851), the uncle of Frederick Mann, was born in Guernsey. He was the son of Colonel Frederick William Mann (1781-1871) and his wife Martha. Frederick Mann had served in the British Army in Spain, Portugal, France and Canada and retired to Guernsey in 1841. James Mann was educated at Elizabeth College, Guernsey, and enlisted in the Royal Navy. He served on HMS *Victor* on the East Indies Station in 1835-37 and later on the Mediterranean Station and the Channel Squadron. He was promoted to lieutenant in 1845. He married Julia Routh in 1849.

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Mann Family

Hilda M. Thorold and Violet M. Mann, compilers. *The Mann Family: notes on some members of the Mann Family and their connections with the Gothers, Fryers and Thorold families*. Printed, 1950, 104pp.

Members of the family included Gother Kerr Mann (1809-1899), who arrived in Sydney in 1836 and was a civil engineer and the first Commissioner of the New South Wales Railways, and his brother John Frederick Mann (1819-1907), who migrated to Sydney in 1841, worked in the Survey Department, and married a daughter of Sir Thomas Mitchell.

Letters of Frederick Gother Mann

Mann (Bunbury) to his mother Margaret Mann, 10-25 Oct. 1889: holiday in Bunbury; re-instated to the life of a gentleman; local transport; move to Karridale and work as a surveyor; friends in the district; sketch map of the area.

Mann (Karridale) to Margaret Mann, 8-9 Nov. 1889: insufficient work to keep him busy for more than a few weeks; details of surveying work; news of acquaintances; thanks for photographs of sister Agnes and subscription to Institute of Civil Engineers; depressed economic conditions in the colony; bankruptcies of Perth merchants; likely need for surveys for tramways.

Mann (Karridale) to Margaret Mann, 18 Nov. 1889: possibilities of future work; his sketches and watercolours; possible visit to coal and tin fields; sketch map of Western Australia.

Mann (Perth) to Margaret Mann, 27 Nov. – 4 Dec. 1892: anecdotes concerning his young nephew Davie; moral failings of Anglican clergy; prospects for doctors in the colony; doctors in country districts 'are generally drunkards'; Midland Railway 'proved to be a gigantic swindle'; Yilgaru (Southern Cross Goldfields) Railway; specifications in contract with the Government.

Mann (Perth) to Margaret Mann, 27 April 1894: return from survey; work with P.C.C.

Mann (Perth) to Margaret Mann, 17 May 1894: influx of immigrants in the colony; peculiar people of Western Australia; Mann has no wish to get into Society; men returning from goldfields; water shortage and fever on the diggings; will continue working for the P.C.C.; wages; death of his sister Dora; photographs; banks in Perth and Fremantle and police force strengthening their forces on account of many thieves among the diggers.

Mann (Busselton) to his sister Alice Courtney (Milltown, Co. Dublin), 8 Oct. 1909: thanks for card and present; fall from a spring cart. (postcard)

Papers of James Saumarez Mann

James S. Mann. Journal kept on HMS *Victor* (Captain Richard Crozier) on a cruise to the South Sea Islands, 14 September – 31 December 1836. (56pp)

The journal refers to the departure from Sydney; sighting of Cape Egmont and Cape Maria Van Diemen; arrival at Bay of Islands (29 Sept.); meetings with missionaries; landscape; visit by a Maori chief Akita; Maori burials; departure from New Zealand (7 Oct.); island of Toobonai; arrival at Tahiti (30 Oct.); canoes, huts and gardens of Tahitians; impressions of Tahitians; meeting with Queen Pomare, George Pritchard acting as interpreter; church service; cruising among Society Islands and Fiji; meeting with a Fijian chief; arrival at Tongataboo (24 Nov.); religious divisions; weakness of missionaries; treachery of Tongans; Bow (Hao) Island; dealings with chiefs; sighting of Lord Howe Island and Ball's Pyramid; return to Sydney (27 Dec.). At the end of the volume is some verse written by Alexander Ross of HMS *Jupiter* and longitudes and latitudes of a few places visited on the cruise.

Mann (Sydney) to his sister Annie Mann (Guernsey), 11 Sept. 1836: about to sail on voyage to South Sea Islands; impressions of Maoris living in Sydney; Sydney is not lively as there are very few young ladies; rumours of war with Russia; visit to the theatre in Sydney with Gother Mann.