

AUSTRALIAN JOINT COPYING PROJECT

JOHN BROWN

Papers, 1838-51

Reels M849-50

**Mrs Margaret Brown
14 Carmean Road
Moymucklemurray
Money more
Co. Londonderry, Northern Ireland**

**National Library of Australia
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Filmed: 1979

HISTORICAL NOTE

John Harris (1754-1839) was born at Moneymore, County Londonderry, Ireland. He studied medicine at the University of Edinburgh and in about 1779 he joined the Royal Navy as a ship's surgeon. In 1789 he was appointed surgeon's mate in the New South Wales Corps and he arrived in Sydney on the *Surprize* in 1790. In 1791 he was promoted to surgeon. Harris received a land grant at Parramatta and built the Experiment Farm Cottage. In 1800 he was appointed a magistrate, in 1801 he became the Naval Officer, and in 1803 he became deputy Judge Advocate. He was dismissed by Governor William Bligh in 1807 and subsequently took a prominent part in the Rum Rebellion. Harris left for England in 1809 where he resigned his commission. He returned to New South Wales in 1814 and settled down as one of the largest landowners in the colony. His Sydney home was Ultimo House and his main properties were at Parramatta (Harris Park) and Shane's Park at South Creek.

Harris's estate was said to be worth £150,000. He had no children and the bulk of his estate was bequeathed to his three brothers in Ireland, William, Robert and George. William sent his sons John and Thomas and Robert sent his son Robert to Sydney to look after their interests. George sent his son-in-law, John Brown, a farmer from Ballymulligan, near Moneymore. Brown was in Australia from July 1840 to September 1844, for the most part living at Experiment Farm Cottage, Parramatta. Together with Thomas Harris, he was especially concerned with the management of the Harris station at Killangan, near Yass.

George Harris died in March 1843 and his two brothers contested the claim of his three children to a third of John Harris's estate. A compromise was eventually reached in about 1852 and John Brown and his wife Margaret received legacies.

JOHN BROWN

Reel M849

Note: The documents were filmed from right to left on the reel, with the title page and list appearing at the end of the reel. Many of the papers were in poor condition and the legibility of the film is variable.

1. Legal documents and agreements, 1838-48

- 1 Copy of the will of Dr John Harris of Shane's Park, 22 Feb. 1838. (incomplete, in handwriting of John Brown)
- 2 Copy of a pledge by the executors of the estate of John Harris to transmit to George Harris the legacies bequeathed to him and his children, with the exception of the legacy of Margaret Harris, 22 Feb. 1841. (in John Brown's handwriting)
- 3 Copy of a memorandum of agreement concerning the employment of Benjamin Donley by Thomas Harris, Parramatta, 6 Dec. 1841. (in handwriting of John Brown)

- 4 Copy of a memorandum of agreement concerning the employment of Walter Tatal (?) by Thomas Harris, Robert Harris and John Brown, Parramatta, 26 Dec. 1842.
- 5 Copy of an agreement concerning the employment of James Kennedy by Thomas Harris, Robert Harris and John Brown, Shane's Park, 1 June 1843. (in John Brown's handwriting)
- 6 Account of John Brown with George Allen, solicitor, 1 Sept. 1843.
- 7 Agreement signed by Thomas Harris and John Brown concerning their financial transactions, 14 Oct. 1843.
- 8 Agreement signed by Thomas Harris and John Brown concerning the lease of a cottage and paddock at Parramatta, 14 Oct. 1843.
- 9 Draft agreement concerning the employment of brickmakers by Thomas Harris, n.d. (incomplete; in John Brown's handwriting)
- 10 Notes concerning writs taken out by Robert Harris and John Harris against John Brown, 23 Feb. 1844.
- 11 Summons to John Brown to appear in Court of Requests to answer plaint of John Rea, Sydney, 21 May 1844.
- 12 Execution against goods of John Brown in pursuance of a decision of the Court of Requests to satisfy John Rea, Sydney, 8 Aug. 1844.
- 13 Queen's Bench. Robert Harris v. John Brown. Costs of the defendant, 13 Feb. 1846.
- 14 Power of attorney granted by William Harris, George Harris, Samuel Crooks, Jane Crooks, John Brown and Margaret Brown to Andrew Murray of Parramatta, 13 May 1848.
- 15 Draft deposition by Gilbert Scott of Money more, County Londonderry, attesting to bona fides of signatories to power of attorney, Belfast, 15 May 1848. (in John Brown's handwriting)

2 Diary, 1840-45

Diary kept by John Brown, commencing on 2 March 1840 on his voyage to Australia and ending on 6 April 1845 on his return voyage to Liverpool. Brown arrived in Adelaide in July 1840 and in the next month continued the voyage to Sydney. He spent most of the next four years in Sydney and Parramatta, but the diary also refers to visits to the Harris property at Killangan, near Yass. He left Sydney on 23 August 1844, sailing to Port Phillip and thence to Valparaiso.

3 Correspondence, 1837-51

- 1 Samuel Stinsin (Killangan) to John Harris (Shane's Park), 27 Aug. 1837: management of the station.
- 2 [Morton?] to John Scott, 20 Nov. 1839: encloses power of attorney to be executed by George Harris and William Harris authorising John Harris and James Fullerton to receive the rents of the Ultimo Estate and to manage the Estate.
- 3 T.D. Huntly (?) to John Brown, 30 Jan. 1840: acknowledges receipt of half the payment of his cabin passage.
- 4 W.H. Goddard (Sydney) to ?, 22 Aug. 1840: O'Reilly wishes to rent a cottage at Ultimo.
- 5 A. Murray (Sydney) to John, Robert and Thomas Harris, 7 Oct. 1840: requests financial assistance for J. Scott.
- 6 Samuel Stinsin (Killangan) to John Harris, 11 Jan. 1841: management of the station.
- 7 A. Reynolds to John Harris, 23 Jan. 1841: rent of a cottage.
- 8 A. Murray (Sydney) to Rev. Thomas Dougal (Sorell, Van Diemen's Land), 24 Feb. 1841: requests he sign a release so that legacies of John Harris can be transmitted to legatees and also requests authorisation to deliver shares of stock to Thomas and Robert Harris and John Brown. (copy in John Brown's handwriting)
- 9 James Kennedy (Killangan) to Brown (Shane's Park), 24 Oct. 1841: concerning share of George Harris of John Harris's legacies. (incomplete)
- 10 [Rev. Thomas Dougal] (Sorell) to Brown, 1 Dec. 1841: share of George Harris of John Harris's legacies. (incomplete)
- 11 [Margaret Brown] (Ballymulligan) to Brown, 29 Oct. 1841: report by Robert Harris of Brown's improper conduct. (incomplete)
- 12 A. Reynolds (Ultimo) to Brown (Parramatta), 6 April 1842: arranges a meeting.
- 13 D. Chambers and Holden (Sydney) to Thomas Harris and Brown, 26 April 1842: annual rent required by John Harris for the continued use of his station.
- 14 Thomas Harris (Parramatta) to James Kennedy, 27 April 1842: lists shares forwarded for the use of the station.
- 15 Thomas Harris (Parramatta) to Margaret Brown, 17 May 1842: rejects charges made against John Brown.
- 16 A. Murray (Parramatta) to Margaret Brown, 20 May 1842: defends Brown's conduct since his arrival in the colony.
- 17 Brown (Parramatta) to Margaret Brown, 21 May 1842: refutes her charges; counter-charges against John and Robert Harris; intends to remain until George Harris gives him power of attorney to collect his share of the estate.
- 18 Brown (Parramatta) to George Harris (Ballymulligan), 20 June 1842: criticises John Harris and defends his own behaviour; letters from solicitors of John Harris directing him to remove cattle from the station or pay a rent.
- 19 James Kennedy (Killangan) to Brown, 6 Jan. 1843: management of the station.

- 20 Brown (Sydney) to executors of John Harris, 18 Jan. 1843: requests an account of the administration of the estate and of all monies received and paid.
- 21 Thomas Harris (Yass) to Brown, 20 Jan. 1843: financial difficulties.
- 22 David Chambers to John Harris, n.d.: return of his cousin John Harris to Ireland; impossibility of dealing with Brown; Brown's offensive behaviour towards the executors; refers to Chambers's interview with Harris and his uncles in Moneymore; strange that the property has been left unproductive for so long when it might yield from £10,000 to £20,000 a year.
- 23 D. Chambers and Holden (Sydney) to John Harris (Magherafelt), 23 Jan. 1843: encloses bill of exchange for £98.10.0, the legacy of his uncle.
- 24 Thomas Harris (Gunning) to Brown, 25 Jan. 1843: requests he defer a meeting with executors until Harris returns to Sydney.
- 25 Thomas Harris (Killangan) to Brown, 24 Feb. 1843: financial and legal difficulties
- 26 Thomas Harris to Brown, 6 Feb. 1843: debts; refers to suit of Robert Harris against Brown.
- 27 Brown (Parramatta) to Margaret Brown, 2 March 1843: meetings with executors; their refusal to divide the Ultimo Estate.
- 28 Robert Campbell (Moneymore) to Brown, 18 March 1843: death of George Harris; urges him to return to Ireland.
- 29 Thomas Harris (Sydney) to Brown, 27 March 1843: requests that Brown act as his agent during his absence.
- 30 Brown to James Kennedy, 12 April 1843: requests an account of all monies received from Brown and an account of the expenses of the stations.
- 31 James Kennedy (Killangan) to Brown, 2 May 1843: affairs of the station; financial and legal difficulties.
- 32 James Kennedy (Killangan) to Brown, 6 May 1843: litigation in Yass; trouble with Ultimo tenants; urges caution in proceeding against executors and requesting money urgently.
- 33 John Brown (Parramatta) to executors of John Harris, 8 May 1843: requests an account of the administration of the estate.
- 34 John Brown (Parramatta) to Robert Harris, 12 May 1843: quotes Kennedy's letter of 2 May.
- 35 T.P. Styles (Maneroo) to Thomas Harris (Killangan), 24 May 1843: mustering of cattle.
- 36 James Kennedy (Killangan) to Brown, 25 May 1843: litigation in Yass; requests funds to pay off debt on station.
- 37 Brown (Sydney) to tenants of Ultimo Estate, 30 May 1843: intends to visit Ultimo cottages in July to collect rents. (copy)
- 38 A Reynolds (Ultimo) to Brown, 7 June 1843: financial difficulties.
- 39 A Reynolds (Ultimo) to Brown, 23 June 1843: financial difficulties.
- 40 Thomas Harris (Yass) to Brown, 23 June 1843: legal and financial difficulties.

- 41 Thomas Harris (Killangan) to A. Little (Parramatta), 3 July 1843: market for cattle; purchase of White's station at Cunningham Creek; repair of a dray.
- 42 Thomas Harris (Killangan) to Brown, 23 July 1843: debts and problems with Ultimo rents.
- 43 Brown (Parramatta) to Margaret Brown, 25 July 1843: negotiations with executors; risk that case will go to Chancery; dispute with Robert Harris over Ultimo rents.
- 44 James Kennedy (Killangan) to Brown, 6 Sept. 1843: requests stores.
- 45 Thomas Harris (Cunninghams Creek) to Brown, 10 Nov. 1843: care of sheep; death of Stinsin's child in the bush.
- 46 Holden, Chambers and McCarthy (Sydney) to Robert Harris, Thomas Harris and John Brown, 28 Dec. 1843: encloses a memorandum on cattle belonging to the estate in 1840; requests they supply executors with returns of numbers received and disposed of.
- 47 James Kennedy (Killangan) to Brown, 18 Feb. 1844: delivery of cattle; further litigation.
- 48 George Allen (Sydney) to Brown, 24 Feb. 1844: sends a copy of a letter from the Sheriff directing Brown to attend the Court and to bring bail.
- 49 John Rea to Brown, [19 March 1844]: a visit by Thomas Harris; Harris's dispute with Brown; claims of John and Robert Harris.
- 50 George Allen (Sydney) to Brown, 19 March 1844: claims by John and Robert Harris against Brown over the rents from the Ultimo Estate and expenditure on the station.
- 51 Holden, Chambers and McCarthy (Sydney) to Brown, 20 March 1844: requests on behalf of Thomas Harris payment on account of rents collected from Ultimo Estate.
- 52 George Allen (Sydney) to Brown, 10 April 1844: requests Brown visit and sign an affidavit.
- 53 George Allen to Brown, 16 April 1844: requests particulars of expenditure on the station.
- 54 George Allen to Brown, 27 April 1844: the case.
- 55 Wall to Thomas Harris (Parramatta), 28 April 1844: demand by Brown for payment for 114 sheep. (copy in John Brown's handwriting)
- 56 Brown (Sydney) to Wall, 29 April 1844: directs Wall not to pay Thomas Harris for 114 sheep. (copy)
- 57 Brown (Parramatta) to James Kennedy, 30 April 1844: authorises him to dispose of cattle in lieu of salary. (copy)
- 58 John Dillon (Sydney) to Brown, 2 May 1844: requests Brown to pay two orders drawn by J. Kennedy or else face court action.
- 59 James Kennedy (Sydney) to Brown, 22 May 1844: resignation; requests settlement of his wages and station's debts.
- 60 Holden, Chambers and McCarthy (Sydney) to Brown, 26 June 1844: sale of cattle without consent of executors would be invalid.
- 61 Thomas Harris (Sydney) to Brown, 1 June 1844: requests Brown to defend the action brought by J. Kennedy against Thomas and Robert Harris and Brown.

- 62 George Allen to Brown, 2 July 1844: award in case of Harris v. Brown is ready.
- 63 Thomas Harris (Parramatta) to Brown (Sydney), 2 July 1844: action brought against them by Kennedy.
- 64 Henry Bourne (Sydney) to Brown (Ballymulligan), 14 Dec. 1844: Brown's sudden departure; requests payment of balance of account with Allen.
- 65 Brown to George Allen, 30 June 1845: Rev. Robert Campbell, executor of George Harris, is sending power of attorney. (copy)
- 66 Brown (Ballymulligan) to William Charnels (Sydney), 1 Jan. 1847: power of attorney sent to Allen; cattle that belonged to George Harris; potato famine.
- 67 Brown (Ballymulligan) to William Charnels, 16 Feb. 1847: power of attorney sent to Allen.
- 68 A. Murray (Bathurst) to [Margaret Brown], 30 July 1849: power of attorney was invalid; Robert Harris has returned to Ireland; relatives of Dr Harris should in future confide in Murray alone.
- 69 A. Murray (Sydney) to George Harris, Samuel Crooks, Jane Crooks, John Brown and Margaret Brown, 9 Dec. 1851: acknowledges receipt of power of attorney dated 20 Sept. 1850; declines to arbitrate on John Brown's claim for compensation; transmits bills for £1900. (copy)
- 70 Holden and McCarthy (Sydney) to Brown, 11 Dec. 1851: encloses copy of letter of A. Murray.
- 71 Holden and McCarthy (Sydney) to Rev. Robert Campbell (Ballymulligan), n.d.: encloses deed of release for his signature as preliminary to receiving one third of cash and bank shares; congratulations on compromise which settled Chancery suit.

4 Financial and other papers

Bills of exchange, receipts, lists of rents, statements of expenditure.

Reel M850

4 Financial and other papers (contd.)

Bills of exchange, receipts, lists of rents, statements of expenditure.

Statements of money transmitted to Ireland by John Brown, 1841-44.

Statement of expenditure of John Brown, 1840-45

Lists of stock on stations of John Harris.

List of tenants on Ultimo Estate, 1843.

Note: In the papers there are variations in the spelling of several names.