

**AUSTRALIAN JOINT COPYING PROJECT**

**JAMES ROBERTS**

**Letters, 1850-52**

**Reel M856**

**Miss M. Roberts  
High Street  
Seend  
West Trowbridge, Wiltshire**

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

**Filmed: 1973**

## **JAMES ROBERTS**

### **Reel M856**

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

[James Roberts] (Adelaide) to his family and friends, n.d.: voyage from England; impressions of Adelaide; prices of fruit; search for employment; most of houses made of wood; high cost of living; mutual friends.

James Roberts (Adelaide) to his father [William Roberts], Nov. 1850: thanks for letter; mutual friends in the colony; plenty of work with good wages; hopes to return in three or four years; unhealthy climate; dust of Adelaide; Adelaide races.

James Roberts [Adelaide] to ?, Jan. 1851: illness; unhealthy climate of Adelaide; deaths due to heat; has only received two letters from home; repayment of loan.

James Roberts (Port Lincoln) to his parents, n.d.; move from Adelaide to Port Lincoln; savagery of Aborigines; Australian landscape, birds, animals; very respectable people braking stones on roads; mutual friends.

James Roberts (Sydney) to his parents, 8 Jan. 1852: about to move from the gold diggings at Turon to those at Port Phillip; if successful will come home; lack of success at his trade; fall from a scaffold; Australia a far better country than England.

### **Biographical note**

Nothing is known of the life of James Roberts apart from the fact that he came from the village of Norton St Philip, Somerset. Internal evidence suggests that he worked in the building trade.