

## Firth Family Archive

This collection consists of both microfilm copies of papers held by the family and original documents.

Ezra Firth came to Australia in 1849 and for a while followed his trade of stonemason. He was among the lucky ones in the Ballarat and Bendigo gold rushes and with his fortune he returned to England to bring out his wife, Eliza, and their two children. In the early 1860s he took up Mt. Surprise and ran it as a sheep station. In 1873 he converted to cattle. Most of the documents in this collection are personal and legal papers from the period 1865 - 1920 but also included are station diaries and day books for 1887-1906.

*Archive Location: 58L*

### Detailed Listing

#### *Items on microfilm – originals not held*

1. Mr and Mrs Ezra Firth of Mt. Surprise.
2. Application for the *Albert Downs* lease dated 21st April, 1865.
3. Extract from District Register, Cook District re *Albert Downs* lease.
4. Application for the *Stony Rises* lease dated 24th July, 1872.
5. License to occupy *Stony Rises* dated 24th July, 1872.
6. Letter from The Treasury, Queensland, re *Stony Rises* dated 19th December, 1873.
7. Letter from the Crown Lands Office, Brisbane, re approval of the lease of *Stony Rises* dated 16th January, 1874.
8. Letter from the Department of Public Lands, Pastoral Occupation Branch re the transfer of *Albert Downs*, *Fossilbrook*, and *Stony Rises* to Ezra Firth, dated 25th June, 1877.
9. Letter to Ezra Firth confirming the above transfer dated 25th June, 1877.
10. Letter from the Department of Public Lands, Pastoral Occupation Branch, re assessment of rent for *Fossilbrook* dated 27th September, 1879.

11. Letter from the Department of Public Lands, Pastoral Occupation Branch, re assessment of rent for *Albert Downs* dated 27th September, 1879.
12. Letter to Ezra Firth from the Under Secretary, The Treasury, Queensland, re payment of rent for leases, dated 6th October, 1879.
13. Approval of renewal of lease for *Albert Downs* dated 24th January, 1880.
14. Approval of renewal of lease for *Fossilbrook* dated 24th January, 1880.
15. Application for the *Rugby* lease dated 29th December, 1880.
16. License to occupy *Rugby* dated 29th December, 1880.
17. Approval of lease of *Rugby* dated 2nd June, 1882.
18. Declaration of stocking *Elland* by John Firth dated 19th October, 1883.
19. Application for license to occupy *Elland* dated 30th November, 1883.
20. Application for the *Rugby No. 2* lease dated 5th February, 1884.
21. License to occupy *Rugby No. 2* dated 5th February, 1884.
22. Application for the *Rugby No. 3* lease dated 25th April, 1884.
23. Request for return of *Rugby No. 3* license by the Acting Commissioner of Crown Lands dated 6th June, 1884.
24. Amended license dated 15th September, 1884.
25. Approval of lease of *Rugby No. 2* lease dated 28th April, 1885.
26. Letter from the Acting Commissioner of Crown Lands re the lease of *Rugby No. 2* dated 6th June, 1885.
27. Letter from the Department of Public Lands, Pastoral Occupation Branch, re expiration dates of leases for *Albert Downs*, *Fossilbrook* and *Stony Rises* dated 10th August, 1885.
28. Approval of lease of *Rugby No. 3* lease dated 25th September, 1885.
29. License to occupy *Stony Rises No. 2* dated 1st August, 1887.
30. 'Character from face reading'. Mr C.L. Firth.
31. Letter to Ezra Firth from R. Newton & Co. dated 23rd April, 1888.
32. Letter to Ezra Firth from R. Newton & Co. re publication of *Stony Rises No. 2* dated 11th June, 1888.
33. Approval for extension of the leases of *Albert Downs* and *Fossilbrook* dated 3rd March, 1893.
34. Cattle and horse account, 1907.

35. List of particulars to accompany Schedule A; includes general stock account, 1908, and page of calculations.
36. Stock records for 1912, dated 12th April, 1913.
37. Acknowledgement of receipt of Memorandum of Transfer of brand and earmark, dated 19th February, 1915.
38. Letter to Messrs Firth Bros, Mt. Surprise from Roberts and Roberts, Solicitors, with attached itemised account dated 26th March, 1915.
39. Miscellaneous notes re cattle and horses.
40. Reference for Victor Thomas Firth dated 19th December, 1921, from the Australian Bank of Commerce, Charters Towers.
41. Reference for Victor Thomas Firth dated 2nd July, 1923 from Burns, Philp & Co. Ltd, Townsville.
42. Reference for Victor Firth dated 5th March, 1930 from Percy Rolleston, Cotton Vale, via Prairie.
43. Copy of the agreement on the sale of Penrice dated 14th March, 1931.
44. Letters from Messrs Roberts, Leu and North, Solicitors, Townsville, re the estate of C.L. Firth dated 12th June, 1931.
45. Letter to 'Vic & Neel' from 'Flo, Fred and Cook' dated 20th August, 1944.
46. Letter to the Deputy Public Curator from Victor T. Firth re the estate of Cook Leichhardt Firth dated 17th October, 1944.
47. Letter to V.T. Firth re discharge from the Civil Constructional Corps dated 26th April, 1945.
48. Certificate of discharge.
49. Letter to V.T. Firth from the Repatriation Commission re discharge from military service dated 28th May, 1948.
50. Certificate of discharge.
51. Birth certificate of Victor Thomas Firth.
52. The last will and testament of Cook Leichhardt Firth.
53. Letter to Ezra Firth from William Kellett & Co. dated 1st August, 1887.
54. Letter to Ezra Firth from the Australian Joint Stock Bank Ltd re Treasury receipt for rents dated 1st February, 1898.
55. Indenture dated 8th January, 1903.
56. General stock accounts, 1905.

57. Accounts: livestock, rents, rates and miscellaneous.
58. Memorandum of Agreement between Firth Bros and Redcat dated 20th March, 1905.
59. Indenture dated 17th September, 1906.
60. Last will and testament of Eliza Firth dated 24th April, 1903.
61. Probate engrossment dated 16th May, 1907.
62. Circular re war census.
63. Notice of payment of interest on Commonwealth Government Inscribed Stock dated 15th December, 1916.
64. Certificate of marriage between Victor Thomas Firth and Mary Ellen Manly dated 16th February, 1918.
65. Memorandum of Agreement between Cook L. Firth and Walter Henry Maidmettt dated 11th June, 1919.
66. List returned with Income Tax for 1904.
67. Schedule A return for 1905.
68. Schedule A return for 1906.
69. Assessment for 1909 dated 3rd June, 1910.
70. Schedule A return for 1908.
71. Schedule A return for 1912.
72. Letter book 1908-1915.
73. Day book 1887-1908. Includes station accounts.
74. Diary 1878. Contains accounts 1882-1906.
75. Horse and receipt book 1917-1920.
76. Ledger. Branding, wages and accounts for 1918-1942.
77. Bank book for V.T. Firth, Australian Bank of Commerce Ltd, Charters Towers 1916-1925.

### ***Original documents***

- FF/1 “Gift Duty Act of 1926” form donation by Charles Furber to Henry Furber, Arthur Furber and Cyril Furber, 30<sup>th</sup> August 1909, of “Narrawa Springs” pastoral lease.
- FF/2 Stamp Duties Office letter regarding the valuation of “Narrawa Springs” dated 29<sup>th</sup> June 1939. Property valued at £2226.10.0
- FF/3 Newspaper cutting “Polio kills 2 of second family” regarding Hubert Cavill of Paluma and his sister Mrs Les Furber of Running River.
- FF/4 Small black book written in by Charles Furber containing poetry and family history.

- FF/5 "Napoleon's Soldier" religious pamphlet.
- FF/6 "Life history of Myself from 1877 till 1949" by Charles Furber. Handwritten text of 51 pages, types copy of 22 pages.
- FF/7 Letter to Rolf of Hidden Valley from Charles Furber dated 18 October 1947, regarding tin prospecting, possibly floating shares in a company.
- FF/8 Exercise book containing loose, assorted handwritten pages written by Charles Furber including family history, stories of his life, and poetry.
- FF/9 Letter from A. L. Nevitt & Co. to Charles Furber reporting on the Kingston Gold Mines, dated 5<sup>th</sup> February 1951.
- FF/10 Letter from A. L. Nevitt & Co. to Charles Furber reporting on the Kingston Gold Mines, dated 15<sup>th</sup> January, 1952. Draft? Letter handwritten on the back discussing family history.
- FF/11 Letter to Charles Furber from J.T. Willcox, dated 7<sup>th</sup> December 1949, giving Charles Furber Power of Attorney in regards to the mining lease.
- FF/12 Envelope showing numerous addresses for Mr. C. Furber Senior.
- FF/13 Incomplete withdrawal form from the Mareeba branch of the Commonwealth Savings Bank of Australia, dated 3<sup>rd</sup> February, 1950.
- FF/14 Handwritten note listing the date of death and age for five members of the Furber family.
- FF/15 Diary written by Cook L. Firth of Mount Surprise. Dates range from 1892 to 1911. Mostly business reminders.
- FF/16 Edith Firth, Recollections of Children, marriage, life on W stations, 1914-15. Edith Furber married John Leslie Firth son of Cook Leichardt Firth and Maria Firth of Mount Surprise Station.