

QUEEN VICTORIA MUSEUM AND ART GALLERY

CHS 98

THE GEORGE WILLIAM BURROWS COLLECTION

Businessmen, Scottsdale
Horses, Scottsdale
Women, Scottsdale

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INTRODUCTION

George William Burrows was born on 10 November 1878 at Crosby, Prospect, near Launceston, son of Henry Burrows, a horse dealer, and his wife Elizabeth (nee Heath) Burrows.¹ At an early age he started to earn his own living and in 1906 he purchased 200 acres at North Scottsdale.² He named the property “Blackwood Park” and in November 1913 he entered into an agreement with builders to erect a farmhouse on the property.³ “Blackwood Park” eventually became one of the show places in the district.

George was a horse dealer and noted throughout Tasmania as a breeder of draught horses. He travelled twice to England to buy horses, made six trips to New Zealand and attended the Royal Sydney Show for 35 years exhibiting his Clydesdale stallions. He went to Melbourne regularly to trade horses and attended Bridgewater horse sales.⁴

George married Amelia Elizabeth George, born on 26 July 1885, daughter of Elijah and Emma George⁵ on 18 November 1908 at St John’s Church, Launceston. Amelia’s parents ran the Red Feather Inn at Hadspen. George and Amelia raised a family of two children, Millicent and Trevor. Amelia died on 27 April 1935. George later married Gladys Lyon and they had a son, George.⁶

George revelled in hard work and was a shrewd and highly successful businessman. He died under tragic circumstances on 15 November 1943 at “Blackwood Park” when a dray he was driving capsized and crushed his skull. He was survived by his widow and their 15-month-old son George and the children of his first marriage, Millicent and Trevor.⁷ Millicent married Athol Keith Ranson, youngest son of Mr & Mrs J C Ranson, “Kia Ora”, Legerwood, on 29 November 1933. Athol died in 1963 and Millicent in 1994.⁸

The collection was donated to the Queen Victoria Museum and Art Gallery in 2002.

¹ RGD 33/1878/3542; marriage certificate in Records

² *North-Eastern Advertiser* 16 November 1943; *Hobart Gazette* 22 December 1906, Assessment roll for the municipality of Ringarooma for 1907, Scottsdale Road Trust

³ Information in the Records

⁴ Information in the Records

⁵ Tasmanian Pioneers Index

⁶ Information in the Records; *North-Eastern Advertiser* 16 November 1943

⁷ *North-Eastern Advertiser* 16, 19 November 1943

⁸ *Weekly Courier* 7 December 1933, p.10; information in the Records; date of Mrs Millicent Burrows’ death provided by her daughter

1. Legal Records

- 1/1 Deeds to Scottsdale property owned by George William Burrows and related documents 1901-1948

2. Diaries

- 2/1 Geo. W. Burrows, Prospect, South Launceston, diaries, 30/4-26/6/1901, 23/2/-24/9/1902, George William Burrows, South Launceston, diary, 21/11/1905-2/6/1906, George William Burrows, Blackwood Park, Scottsdale, diaries, 1/1-25/8/1911, 1/7/1913-25/4/1914, 27/4/1914-1/5/1915 (typed transcriptions for 30/4/-26/6/1901 and 23/2/-15/4/1902 entries) 1901-1915
- 2/2 George William Burrows, Blackwood Park, Scottsdale, diaries, 1/11/1916-11/8/1917, 14/8/1917-22/5/1918, 10/7/1918-11/4/1919, 16/4/1919-17/2/1920, 19/2/1920-22/1/1921, 25/1/1921-14/2/1922 1916-1922
- 2/3 Diaries, 17/2/1922-12/3/1923, 14/3/1923-21/11/1923, 22/11/1923-5/5/1925, 7/5/1925-4/4/1927, 6/4/1927-29/11/1928, 1/12/1928-4/10/1930 1922-1930
- 2/4 Diaries, 7/10/1930-20/2/1932, 23/2/1932-1/12/1932, 5/12/1932-1/3/1934, 3/3/1934-2/5/1935, 4/5/1935-13/5/1935, 21/7/1934-14/8/1941 1930-1941
- 2/5 Diaries, 4/5/1937-14/2/1938, 16/2/1938-1/12/1939, 4/12/1939-25/9/1941, 28/9/1941-22/11/1942 1937-1942

3. Ledgers

- 3/1 George William Burrows, money received for horses and their expenses, valuations of several properties at back of ledger 1928-1936
- 3/2 Money received for horses etc 1933-1937
- 3/3 Money received for horses etc 1937-1943
- 3/4 Money received for horses, 1943 entries in another hand, valuations of properties at back of ledger 1937-1943

4. Miscellaneous Items

4/1	G W Burrows, exercise book, 'Commenced Sept. 1903, South Launceston' (includes loose pages for Henry Burrows, Prospect Village, farm records, 1890-1902; billhead for 'H Burrows, Prospect Stud Station'; card, 'Pedigree of the Clydesdale Colt, General Hamilton... Geo. Burrows, Owner. South Launceston'; photocopy of billhead for Geo. W. Burrows, Prospect Stud, South Launceston)	1890-1908
4/2	[George William Burrows], London hotel bill	1904
4/3	Entertainment program on board SS <i>Marathon</i>	1904
4/4	Photocopy of letter from G W Burrows, London, to his brother James; London letter re transport costs for horses	1908
4/5	Agreement with Higgs and Wood, builders, re building farm house at Blackwood Park	1913
4/6	Fire insurance policies on buildings etc owned by George William Burrows	1920-1938
4/7	G Burrows, account for purchase of horse at Kirk's Horse Bazaar, Melbourne	1923
4/8	G W Burrows, photocopy of letter re purchase of property at New River	1924
4/9	Photocopy of Royal Agricultural Society of NSW first prize certificate for draught horse	1925
4/10	List of Herd & Co. shareholders	1927
4/11	G Burrows, account for horses purchased from Campbell & Sons, Melbourne	1938
4/12	Letter from J W Humphrey, Langhorne's Creek	1943
4/13	Newspaper cuttings concerning G W Burrows and his horses	1933, 1934, 1941, nd
4/14	Estate late G W Burrows, money received for horses, goods and stock sold, expenses	1943-1944
4/15	George William Burrows, handwritten text of speech re Clydesdale horse in comparison to a tractor	nd

4/16 Burrows family information, including photocopy of G W Burrows' marriage certificate

5. Mrs Amelia Burrows (nee George)

5/1 Amelia George, postcards 1907-1908

5/2 Amelia Burrows; George and Amelia Burrows, greeting cards 1908-1917, nd

5/3 Mrs Amelia Burrows, correspondence 1929, 1935

6. Mrs Millicent Ranson (nee Burrows)

6/1 Millicent Burrows, two birthday cards, invitation 1916-1931

6/2 Millicent Burrows, accounts from Church of England Girls' Grammar School 1922

6/3 M E Burrows/Ranson, driver's licence 1933, 1949

6/4 Millicent Burrows, invitation to her marriage to Athol Ranson; letter; congratulatory telegrams re wedding 1933

6/5 Letters re Millicent Ranson's mother's death 1935

6/6 Letters, telegrams re Millicent Ranson's father's death 1943

6/7 Mrs M E Ranson, letter from Australian Military Forces re issue of female relative badge 1943

6/8 Letters, telegrams re death of Mrs Catherine May Ranson, nee Cherry, Athol Ranson's mother 1945

6/9 Mrs A K Ranson, letter from Herd & Co re Scottsdale property 1950

6/10 Letters, telegrams re the death of Millicent Ranson's husband 1963-1964

6/11 Mrs M Ranson, Municipality of Scottsdale invitation to civic reception 1969

6/12 Mrs Millie Ranson, North-Eastern Methodist Circuit invitation to family night and dinner at Church Hall, Scottsdale 1973

6/13 Mr & Mrs A K Ranson's Dinner, Scottsdale Hotel, menu nd

7. Athol Ranson

7/1 Athol K Ranson, Ashley, Scottsdale, Stock Act, 1932, certificate of record of registered brand 1935

7/2 Article on A K Ranson's brick works, *North Eastern Advertiser*, 7 March 1950, p.1 1950

7/3 A K Ranson Pty Ltd, book of valuations for properties in the Scottsdale district, with index 1951-1963

8. Scottsdale Area Ephemera

8/1 Scottsdale billheads: Miss C Sutherland, teacher of pianoforte, 1923; A S Porteous, dentist, 1927; Scottsdale Co-operative Dairy, 1935; North Eastern Soldiers' Memorial Hospital, 1935 1923-1935

8/2 Scottsdale Municipal Commission, season's greetings card 1938

8/3 Scottsdale Musical and Elocutionary Competitions, schedule of prizes *Oversize item* 1945

8/4 Loyal Scottsdale, 1st annual dinner menu, Hotel Bridport 1946

8/5 Scottsdale Sub-Branch RSS&AILA, annual ball dance programme; annual re-union dinner, 1952; Ringarooma Sub-Branch annual re-union dinner, 1951 1947-1952

8/6 Scottsdale Ex-Services Club, rules 1947

8/7 Scottsdale Football Club, annual dinner menu 1948

8/8 RAOB-GAB Lodge Scottsdale, raising ceremony, elevation, also Lodge Branxholme, 1951 1948-1951

8/9 Lodge Dorset, Scottsdale, installation ceremony 1949, 1950

8/10 Australian Military Forces, 123 Indep.TPT.PL.RAASC, Scottsdale, programme of training parades 1953

8/11 Broadcasting Station 7SD North Eastern Tasmania, official opening programme with invitation 1954

8/12 Rotary Club of Scottsdale, presentation of charter; changeover and 10th anniversary programme (includes president's report etc; 20th anniversary programme 1963, 1973, 1983

with history of club and invitation)

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| 8/13 | 'There are some things coming off here we're staying to see at Scottsdale', postcard with small foldout of photographs of Scottsdale | nd |
| 8/14 | NE Agricultural and Pastoral Association, lady's entrance ticket | nd |
| 8/15 | Legerwood, Mr & Mrs W J Yates' hotel, small advertising card | nd |

9. Photographs

- 9/1 A series of approximately 30 family snapshots, mainly taken at Bridport, and of the Scottsdale area (included are a studio photograph of Mrs G W Burrows, taken by Whitelaw, Launceston; photographs of the Commercial Bank Scottsdale and Fish Canneries of Tasmania Pty Ltd at Bridport, both built by A K Ranson Pty Ltd; Scottsdale Hockey Club 1932 and Forester Football Team 1932; also copies of photographs of "Blackwood Park"; G W Burrows x 2; G W Burrows, his brother James and sisters Susan and Sarah; photograph of Justices of Peace at Scottsdale in 1933, includes G W Burrows