

P.007 Papers of Alexander OLIVER (1832-1904) MA (Oxford), Fellow of Senate, and family

Date Range: 1826-1934
Quantity (sh. m.): 3

Administrative History

Alexander Oliver was born in Sydney on 30 September 1832, son of Andrew Oliver of Manchester, and his wife Mary Ann [Kenyon]. Andrew Oliver died a few years after Alexander's birth and his mother remarried Mr T. W. Smart, Treasurer and Minister for Public Works under Sir Charles Cowper.

Oliver was educated at various schools in Sydney: Mr Cape's School, Mr Taylor's School (later Fort Street Boys), and Mr Carey's School. During this period Oliver lost his left arm in a shooting accident at Bondi. In 1852 Oliver matriculated to the University of Sydney and was among the first group of students admitted to the University. However, his family moved to England in 1854 and Oliver went with them, transferring his studies to Oxford University. He graduated with an M.A. with honours in 1861, and in 1862 was called to the Bar, practising as a barrister in England until 1864, when he returned to Sydney. During his period in England Alexander married his first wife Adelaide Beresford Gwyn, however, she died shortly after the Olivers arrived back in Sydney.

On 12 December 1864 Oliver was appointed Examiner to the Council of Education, and on 1 August of the following year he became Parliamentary Draftsman with W. H. Wilkinson, a position he held until 1892. From this time on Oliver was very active in public life, holding a wide variety of positions: Secretary to the Law Reform Commission, 1 July 1870; Registrar of Friendly Societies, 20 January 1874; Examiner of Titles under the Real Property Act, 13 July 1874; Fellow of the University of Sydney Senate 1879-1904; Member of the Fisheries Commission, 1881; Registrar of Trade Unions, 16 December 1881; President of the Intoxicating Drink Enquiry Commission, 1886; Member of the State House Designs Board, 1887; Trustee of the Free Public Library, 1887; Member of the Civil Service Board, 1888. In 1892 Oliver was appointed President of the Land Appeal Court, a position he held until his death in 1904.

In 1900, after Federation, Oliver was given a Royal Commission by the NSW Government to inquire into possible sites for a seat of government for the new nation. Oliver travelled to many of the proposed sites and presented his report in 1902, recommending the adoption of a site in the Eden-Bombala district. The NSW Government did not, however, have the power to decide on the final site and the Commonwealth Government held its own inquiries, eventually deciding on the present site in 1908.

In 1903 the NSW Government gave Oliver a Commission to inquire into land holdings on Norfolk Island. On the return journey the ship he was travelling on with his daughter Helen R. (Ruth), caught fire and sank just off Lord Howe Island. All the passengers and crew made their way safely to Lord Howe but it was nearly a fortnight before another ship arrived that could take them back to Sydney. It appears from the diary Oliver kept at this time that he was already unwell [see series 18].

As well as his ordinary work Oliver published a number of books on legal subjects, including editions of NSW Criminal Law, and the Real Property Acts, as well as a two volume edition of the Imperial and Local Statutes in force in NSW in 1879. In addition Oliver was a frequent correspondent with Sydney newspapers, and the author of a number of columns on topics such as legal matters, social comment, and fishing. His favourite pastime was sailing and he was a member of the Royal Sydney Yacht Squadron from the 1860s, being the squadron's rear-commadore in the period 1897-1900. He owned at least three yachts during these years, Vivandiere, Possum and Antidote.

On 30 January 1875 Alexander had married Eliza Celia Gowlland, sister of Lieutenant Thomas Gowlland, at St. Mark's Church, Darling Point. They had 7 surviving children, 4 sons: Marcius J., Richard A., Francis Badham, and Dalley G. T.; and 3 daughters: Dorothea C., Helen R., and Blanche M. Two daughters predeceased Alexander, Katherine Alice who died on 7 November 1900 aged 22, and another whose name is unknown. Alexander died at his home Shelcote in Neutral Bay, on 2 June 1904. His funeral was held at Christ Church St Laurence, and he was buried in the cemetery of St. Thomas's Church, North Sydney. Probate was granted on 13 July 1904.

P.007 Papers of Alexander OLIVER and family

List of Series

| | | | <i>Location</i> |
|----|--|-----------------|-----------------|
| 1 | Correspondence of Francis Badham Oliver | 1912 - 1913 | 15/2 |
| 2 | Documents in a legal case concerning the erection of a new window at St. Mark's, Darling Point | 1922 - 1923 | 15/2 |
| 3 | Papers concerning the military service of Francis Badham Oliver | 1918 - 1926 | 15/2 |
| 4 | War diaries kept by Francis Badham Oliver | 1914 - 1915 | 15/2 |
| 5 | Documents relating to Francis Oliver's schooling | 1898 - 1901 | 15/2 |
| 6 | Papers concerning the Stokes Trench Mortar | 1914? - 1918? | 15/2 |
| 7 | Miscellaneous documents of Celia, Francis and Ruth (HR) Oliver | 1904 - 1935 | 15/2 |
| 8 | Legal and financial papers of Celia, Francis Badham, and Ruth (HR) Oliver | 1906 - 1934 | 15/2 |
| 9 | Postcards | ?1913 - 1918? | 15/2 |
| 10 | Papers concerning a legal case between Oliver and Smart | 1827 - 1933? | 15/2 |
| 11 | Letters received by Celia Oliver from Alexander Oliver | 1877 - 1900 | 15/2 |
| 12 | Letters of sympathy and offers of assistance received by Celia Oliver after the death of Alexander | 1904 - 1904 | 15/2 |
| 13 | Miscellaneous letters received by Celia Oliver and her children and grandchildren | 1909 - 1924 | 15/2 |
| 14 | Letters received by Alexander Oliver | 1860s - 1904 | 15/2-3 |
| 15 | Copies of letters sent by Alexander Oliver | 1874 - 1904 | 15/3 |
| 16 | Waratah Colliery Enquiry | 1888 - 1890 | 15/3 |
| 17 | Documents concerning the Federal Capital Site Royal Commission | 1900 - 1901 | 15/3 |
| 18 | Documents concerning the Norfolk Island Enquiry | 1903 - 1904 | 15/3 |
| 19 | Contributions to Sydney newspapers | ?1880s - 1900s? | 15/3 |
| 20 | Invitations | ?1880s - 1900s? | 15/3 |
| 21 | Miscellaneous Official Documents | 1864 - 1904 | 15/3, cab. 4/8 |
| 22 | Documents concerning Oliver's boating activities | 1866 - 1899 | 15/3 |
| 23 | Miscellaneous personal documents of Alexander Oliver | 1845 - 1904 | 15/3, cab. 4/8 |
| 24 | Press cuttings | 1860s - 1900s | 15/4 |

P.007 Papers of Alexander OLIVER and family

Creating Agency: Alexander Oliver
Previous Custodian: F. B. Oliver

Series: 1 Correspondence of Francis Badham Oliver
Date Range: 1912 -1913

Accessions: 1363
Quantity: 1 box (part)
Item List: no
Box No.: 1

Series Description:

Copies of letters received by Francis Badham Oliver, son of Alexander. Most of the letters are from Celia Oliver, his mother, and Ruth, his fiancee/wife. Some of the letters deal with business matters, and there is a small number of copies of letters sent to various individuals.

Access: Open
Ownership: University of Sydney
Copyright: University of Sydney
Access Status: Open

P.007 Papers of Alexander OLIVER and family

Creating Agency: Alexander Oliver
Previous Custodian: F. B. Oliver

Series: 2 Documents in a legal case concerning the erection of a new window at St. Mark's, Darling Point

Date Range: 1922 -1923

Accessions: 1363
Quantity: 1 box (part)
Item List: no
Box No.: 1

Series Description:

Papers in a legal case concerning the erection of a new stained glass window at St. Mark's Church, Darling Point. The series contains correspondence, a legal opinion, handwritten notes, and a copy of the church's newsletter "The Church Messenger" dated 23 August 1922. The provenance of these papers is unknown, although since the new window was proposed by a Mrs A. A. Smart, widow of T. W. Smart, it is possible that these papers should form part of Series 9. They have been kept as a separate series because they were tied up in a separate bundle among the unsorted Oliver papers.

Access: Open
Ownership: University of Sydney
Copyright: University of Sydney
Access Status: Open

P.007 Papers of Alexander OLIVER and family

Creating Agency: Alexander Oliver

Previous Custodian: F. B. Oliver

Series: 3 Papers concerning the military service of Francis Badham Oliver

Date Range: 1918 -1926

Accessions: 1363

Quantity: 1 box (part)

Item List: yes

Box No.: 1

Series Description:

Francis Oliver enlisted in the AIF on 7 August 1914, and at a later date transferred to the Australian Division of the Royal Engineers. These papers are bureaucratic documents concerning Francis Oliver's war service, including receipts, pay statements, bills, and correspondence.

Access: Open
Ownership: University of Sydney
Copyright: University of Sydney
Access Status: Open

P.007 Papers of Alexander OLIVER and family

Series: 3 Papers concerning the military service of Francis Badham Oliver, 1918 - 1926

| <i>Item</i> | <i>Description</i> | <i>Date</i> |
|-------------|--|-------------|
| 1 | Warrant appointing F. B. Oliver to temporary rank of Warrant Officer I | 15 Sep 1916 |
| 2 | Receipt for stores issued by the AIF Officers' Issue Store, London | 21 Apr 1918 |
| 3 | Receipt for stores issued by the AIF Officers' Issue Store, London | 28 Apr 1918 |
| 4 | Receipt for payment by F. B. Oliver to Staff Pay Office | 28 Apr 1918 |
| 5 | Receipt for stores issued by the AIF Officers' Issue Store, London | 06 Apr 1918 |
| 6 | Issue and receipt voucher for stores issued to F. B. Oliver | 08 Apr 1918 |
| 7 | Receipt for stores issued by the AIF Officers' Issue Store, London | 08 Apr 1918 |
| 8 | Warrant appointing F. B. Oliver to temporary rank of Second Lieutenant in 4th Australian Infantry Battalion | 14 Jan 1919 |
| 9 | Paybook receipt for issue of army paybook to F. B. Oliver | 05 Mar 1919 |
| 10 | Chief Paymaster's statement of non-effective account of Lieutenant F. B. Oliver | 08 Oct 1919 |
| 11 | Information sheet giving information required by the Army from every returned soldier showing rank, full name, unit, age, marital status, religion, and home address | 28 Nov 1919 |
| 12 | Handwritten receipt Overseas Officer, 2nd Military District, for pay records for troops disembarking from HMAT Devon (F.B. Oliver's transport) | 28 Nov 1919 |
| 14 | Letter to F. B. Oliver from 2nd Military district HQ re his physical fitness and current address | 05 Jan 1920 |
| 15 | Letter to F. B. Oliver from 2nd Military district HQ re his appointment as Lieutenant in the 4th Battalion Reserve | 09 Jan 1920 |
| 16 | Letter to F. B. Oliver enclosing a copy of his 'Final Statement of Account' | 29 Jan 1920 |
| 17 | 'Final Statement of Account' of F. B. Oliver during his period of service showing earnings and payments | 29 Jan 1920 |
| 18 | Letter from 2nd Military District HQ re termination of F. B. Oliver's appointment in the AIF | 29 Jan 1920 |
| 19 | Advice to F. B. Oliver of the termination of his appointment in the AIF | 29 Jan 1920 |
| 20 | Letter to F. B. Oliver concerning medals | 08 Apr 1921 |
| 21 | Copy of letter from F. B. Oliver to Commandant 2nd Military District | 05 Jan 1922 |

P.007 Papers of Alexander OLIVER and family

Series: 3 Papers concerning the military service of Francis Badham Oliver, 1918 - 1926

| <i>Item</i> | <i>Description</i> | <i>Date</i> |
|-------------|---|-------------|
| | giving his address | |
| 22 | Form letter to Oliver re his address | 05 Jan 1922 |
| 23 | Form letter to Oliver re his address | 03 May 1926 |
| 24 | Copy of letter from F. B. Oliver to Commandant 2nd Military District giving his address | 06 May 1926 |
| 25 | Unused 'Application for War Gratuity' form | n.d. |

P.007 Papers of Alexander OLIVER and family

Creating Agency: Alexander Oliver

Previous Custodian: F. B. Oliver

Series: 4 War diaries kept by Francis Badham Oliver

Date Range: 1914 -1915

Accessions: 1363

Quantity: 1 box (part)

Item List: no

Box No.: 1

Series Description:

Francis Badham Oliver enlisted in the AIF on 7 August 1914 and served in 1st Australian Division of the 1st Field Company of Royal Engineers during the first World War. The Division arrived in Gallipoli on 25 April 1915 and Oliver remained there until 26 June 1915.

This series consists of 3 diaries kept by Oliver from 19 October 1914 until 4 July 1915. The second and third diaries cover the Gallipoli period and include many details about military activities on the peninsula.

Access: Open
Ownership: University of Sydney
Copyright: University of Sydney
Access Status: Open

P.007 Papers of Alexander OLIVER and family

Creating Agency: Alexander Oliver
Previous Custodian: F. B. Oliver

Series: 5 Documents relating to Francis Oliver's schooling
Date Range: 1898 -1901

Accessions: 1363
Quantity: 1 box (part)
Item List: no
Box No.: 2

Series Description:

Francis Badham Oliver received at least part of his schooling at Marlborough College England. This series contains Marlborough College School Lists for Christmas Term 1899, Lent Term 1900, and Midsummer Term 1901, and a school report for FB Oliver dated March 1899. There is also a school report for FB Oliver from The Wicks School, Brighton, dated 12 April 1898.

Access: Open
Ownership: University of Sydney
Copyright: University of Sydney
Access Status: Open

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P.007 Papers of Alexander OLIVER and family

Creating Agency: Alexander Oliver

Previous Custodian: F. B. Oliver

Series: 6 Papers concerning the Stokes Trench Mortar

Date Range: 1914? -1918?

Accessions: 1363

Quantity: 1 box (part)

Item List: no

Box No.: 2

Series Description:

Papers concerning Captain F Stokes and his trench mortar, including blueprints of the mortar, a range diagram, training maps of England, and a printed booklet of testimonials re Stokes.

Access: Open
Ownership: University of Sydney
Copyright: University of Sydney
Access Status: Open

P.007 Papers of Alexander OLIVER and family

Creating Agency: Alexander Oliver

Previous Custodian: F. B. Oliver

Series: 7 Miscellaneous documents of Celia, Francis and Ruth (HR) Oliver

Date Range: 1904 -1935

Accessions: 1363

Quantity: 1 box (part)

Item List: yes

Box No.: 2

Series Description:

Miscellaneous documents of Celia, FB and Ruth (HR) Oliver, including diaries, photographs, auction records, and some correspondence.

Access: Open
Ownership: University of Sydney
Copyright: University of Sydney
Access Status: Open

P.007 Papers of Alexander OLIVER and family

Series: 7 Miscellaneous documents of Celia, Francis and Ruth (HR) Oliver, 1904 - 1935

| <i>Item</i> | <i>Description</i> | <i>Date</i> |
|-------------|--|-------------|
| 1 | Diary kept by Celia Oliver in England during 1915 | 1915 |
| 2 | Small unused notebook with the name G. H. Howell written on the front cover | n.d. |
| 3 | Letter of introduction for Celia Oliver, widow of Alexander Oliver, signed by J. H. Carruthers, Premier and Colonial Treasurer of NSW | 26 Apr 1906 |
| 4 | Letter to Ruth Oliver from commandant of Administrative HQ, AIF in London forwarding a copy of an AIF order recognising her services in the Red Cross during the war | 20 Sep 1918 |
| 5 | AIF extracts from the 'London Gazette' containing an extract from a British War Office document recognising the services of Ruth (HR) Oliver to the Red Cross during the war | 20 Sep 1918 |
| 6 | Copy of letter written by an unidentified writer to Sir Edmund Barton concerning Celia Oliver's difficult financial position and asking that assistance be given to her | n.d. |
| 7 | Description of land at Cabramatta granted to Major George Johnston in 1805, prepared by Arnold Love, surveyor | 19 May 1905 |
| 8 | Small calendar notebook (used by Celia?) | 1918 |
| 9 | Assignment of Lease of 8 Beaumanor Mansions Queens Road Bayswater [London] from Celia Oliver to Miss M. S. Noble Taylor | 12 Jun 1919 |
| 10 | Newspaper notice of sale of Alexander Oliver's Library on 13 December [1904?] | 1904? |
| 11 | Catalogue of auction of "Furniture and appointments" of the Oliver residence in Neutral Bay conducted by Lawson & Little, annotated with prices | 29 Dec 1904 |
| 12 | Pages from a small writing pad containing handwritten auction notes and prices | 1904? |
| 13 | Flyer advertising auction of the 'Monastery Estate' in Karraba Road Neutral Bay, on 2 November 1912, by Raine & Horne | 1912 |
| 14 | Flyer advertising auction of 'Shelcote' [Oliver's property] in Shelcote Road Neutral Bay, on 8 June 1912, by Raine & Horne | 1912 |
| 15 | Unused postcard of Calais | n.d. |
| 16 | Half-yearly statement for 'The Australian Bank of Commerce Pty. Ltd.' | 30 Jun 1919 |
| 17 | Sepia-toned photograph of small child, possibly one of Oliver's daughters | n.d. |

P.007 Papers of Alexander OLIVER and family

Series: 7 Miscellaneous documents of Celia, Francis and Ruth (HR) Oliver, 1904 - 1935

| <i>Item</i> | <i>Description</i> | <i>Date</i> |
|-------------|---|-------------|
| 18 | Flyer for sale of freehold lots in the 'Penshurst Estate' at Neutral Bay on 22 February 1913, by Richardson and Wrench | 1913 |
| 19 | Printed booklet of B&W photographs titled 'Australia's First Expeditionary Force 1914'; inside front cover is inscribed "Love from Maude, Sydney 1914" | 1914 |
| 20 | Printed draw for 'The Mark's Match' of the Royal Sydney Golf Club, with pencilled annotations - FB Oliver winner | 1920 |
| 21 | Statement from Metropolitan Board of Water Supply and Sewerage certifying that plumbing works at 'Shelcote' have been carried out by a licensed plumber | 12 Mar 1906 |
| 22 | Walter Scott's 'Lady of the Lake' with annotation on inside front cover: "F. B. Oliver P. H." | n.d. |

P.007 Papers of Alexander OLIVER and family

Creating Agency: Alexander Oliver

Previous Custodian: F. B. Oliver

Series: 8 Legal and financial papers of Celia, Francis Badham, and Ruth (HR) Oliver

Date Range: 1906 -1934

Accessions: 1363

Quantity: 14 folders

Item List: no

Box No.: 2-3

Series Description:

Financial and legal records including insurance policies, cheque butts, leases, accounts and statements, taxation records, etc.

Access: Open
Ownership: University of Sydney
Copyright: University of Sydney
Access Status: Open

P.007 Papers of Alexander OLIVER and family

Creating Agency: Alexander Oliver

Previous Custodian: F. B. Oliver

Series: 9 Postcards

Date Range: ?1913 -1918?

Accessions: 1363

Quantity: 1 box (part)

Item List: no

Box No.: 4

Series Description:

Postcards some of which had been received by Celia Oliver, although most of them are unused. The postcards are predominantly of European scenes particularly in France and England.

Access: Open
Ownership: University of Sydney
Copyright: University of Sydney
Access Status: Open

P.007 Papers of Alexander OLIVER and family

Creating Agency: Alexander Oliver

Previous Custodian: F. B. Oliver

Series: 10 Papers concerning a legal case between Oliver and Smart

Date Range: 1827 -1933?

Accessions: 1363

Quantity: 4 folders

Item List: no

Box No.: 4-5

Series Description:

After Alexander Oliver's father died his mother remarried Mr T.W. Smart, a prominent businessman and subsequently Member of the NSW Parliament and Colonial Treasurer under Charles Cowper. When his father died Alexander became a trustee of the estate along with Smart's children by a previous marriage. The legal case with which these papers are concerned seemed to have been between Alexander and his family and the Smart children and appears to have concerned a misapplication of funds by one of the trustees. The case might have started after Alexander's death and continued until the 1920s or 30s. The series includes a large number of earlier documents relating to Smart, and his property and land-holdings. It is not known if the case was resolved.

Access: Open
Ownership: University of Sydney
Copyright: University of Sydney
Access Status: Open

P.007 Papers of Alexander OLIVER and family

Creating Agency: Alexander Oliver

Previous Custodian: F. B. Oliver

Series: 11 Letters received by Celia Oliver from Alexander Oliver

Date Range: 1877 -1900

Accessions: 1363

Quantity: 1 folder

Item List: no

Box No.: 6

Series Description:

From the evidence of these letters Alexander was devoted to his wife Celia. The letters were sent to Celia by Alexander when he was absent from home, particularly on his Land Court duties which involved much travelling around the state.

Access: Open
Ownership: University of Sydney
Copyright: University of Sydney
Access Status: Open

P.007 Papers of Alexander OLIVER and family

Creating Agency: Alexander Oliver

Previous Custodian: F. B. Oliver

Series: 12 Letters of sympathy and offers of assistance received by Celia Oliver after the death of Alexander

Date Range: 1904

Accessions: 1363

Quantity: 1 folder

Item List: no

Box No.: 6

Series Description:

Alexander Oliver died at his home 'Shelcote' in Neutral Bay on 2 June 1904. Following his death Celia, his wife, received hundreds of letters offering sympathy and consolation on her loss.

Access: Open
Ownership: University of Sydney
Copyright: University of Sydney
Access Status: Open

P.007 Papers of Alexander OLIVER and family

Creating Agency: Alexander Oliver

Previous Custodian: F. B. Oliver

Series: 13 Miscellaneous letters received by Celia Oliver and her children and grandchildren

Date Range: 1909 - 1924

Accessions: 1363

Quantity: 1 folder

Item List: no

Box No.: 6

Series Description:

Letters received by Celia from her children; by Francis and Ruth from their parents and siblings; and some party acceptances sent to John Alexander, Francis' son, on the occasion of his 6th(?) birthday.

Access: Open
Ownership: University of Sydney
Copyright: University of Sydney
Access Status: Open

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P.007 Papers of Alexander OLIVER and family

Creating Agency: Alexander Oliver

Previous Custodian: F. B. Oliver

Series: 14 Letters received by Alexander Oliver

Date Range: 1860s -1904

Accessions: 1363

Quantity: 15 folders

Item List: no

Box No.: 6-8

Series Description:

This series contains both private and official correspondence of Alexander Oliver. They have not been separated because so many of Alexander's personal correspondents were also his legal and official colleagues, and most of the letters deal with matters that concern both their personal and official relationships. Some of the more notable correspondents include Alfred Stephen, Edmund Barton, John Fairfax, George Dibbs, JH Carruthers, Henry Dangar, William Manning, Charles Cowper, Arthur Streeton, Henry McLaurin, and WC Windeyer.

The letters are arranged in chronological order in the following manner:

folder 1 undated
folder 2 1860-69
folder 3 1870-79
folder 4 1880-85
folder 5 1886-87
folder 6 1888-89
folder 7 1890-91
folder 8 1892
folder 9 1893-94
folder 10 1895-96
folder 11 1897-98
folder 12 1899
folder 13 1900-1901
folder 14 1902
folder 15 1903-04

Access: Open
Ownership: University of Sydney
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Access Status: Open

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P.007 Papers of Alexander OLIVER and family

Creating Agency: Alexander Oliver

Previous Custodian: F. B. Oliver

Series: 15 Copies of letters sent by Alexander Oliver

Date Range: 12 Nov 1874 -15 May 1904

Accessions: 1363

Quantity: 1 folder

Item List: no

Box No.: 9

Series Description:

Copies and drafts of letters sent by Alexander Oliver to various recipients, mostly undated.

Access: Open
Ownership: University of Sydney
Copyright: University of Sydney
Access Status: Open

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P.007 Papers of Alexander OLIVER and family

Creating Agency: Alexander Oliver

Previous Custodian: F. B. Oliver

Series: 16 Waratah Colliery Enquiry

Date Range: 1888 -1890

Accessions: 1363

Quantity: 2 folders, 2 vols.

Item List: no

Box No.: 9

Series Description:

In 1888 Oliver was appointed Referee under the NSW Arbitration Act 1867 to hear a dispute between the owners of the Waratah Coal Mine and the miners employed in the mine. This series consists of documents created and collected by Oliver in the course of the hearing.

Access: Open
Ownership: University of Sydney
Copyright: University of Sydney
Access Status: Open

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P.007 Papers of Alexander OLIVER and family

Creating Agency: Alexander Oliver

Previous Custodian: F. B. Oliver

Series: 17 Documents concerning the Federal Capital Site Royal Commission

Date Range: 1900 -1901

Accessions: 1363

Quantity: 1 folder, 2 vols.

Item List: no

Box No.: 10

Series Description:

In 1899 the NSW Government set up a Royal Commission to investigate a site for the Federal Capital. Alexander Oliver was appointed Commissioner. In his report Oliver recommended Bombala-Eden for the Federal Capital, however the NSW Government had no powers of decision in the matter and the new Commonwealth Government held its own Commissions of Enquiry which eventually decided on the present Yass-Queanbeyan site.

The series contains press cuttings, correspondence, notes, an itinerary for one of Oliver's trips, and a copy of the report complete with the volume of Appendices.

See also series 18

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Ownership: University of Sydney
Copyright: University of Sydney
Access Status: Open

P.007 Papers of Alexander OLIVER and family

Creating Agency: Alexander Oliver

Previous Custodian: F. B. Oliver

Series: 18 Documents concerning the Norfolk Island Enquiry

Date Range: 1903 -1904

Accessions: 1363

Quantity: 1 folder, 1 vol.

Item List: no

Box No.: 10

Series Description:

In 1903 the NSW Government appointed Oliver to the Royal Commission of Inquiry in to land holdings and land use on Norfolk Island. On the return voyage the Ovalau, the ship on which Oliver and his daughter Ruth were travelling, caught fire and sank just off Lord Howe Island. All the passengers and crew transferred safely to Lord Howe, but it was over a fortnight before another ship bound for Sydney was able to take them back to the mainland. Oliver died in 1904 before he could complete his report so the Enquiry never reported to the Government.

This series contains a notebook kept by Oliver during his hearings on Norfolk Island, the latter part of which is a diary of his stay on Lord Howe, telegrams received by Oliver after his safe return to Sydney, and a hand-written and illuminated testimonial to Alexander and Ruth from the crew of the Ovalau.

6/6/86 Note: The diary referred to above extends into 1904 and relates to Oliver's inspection of Federal Capital sites. gm.

Access: Open
Ownership: University of Sydney
Copyright: University of Sydney
Access Status: Open

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P.007 Papers of Alexander OLIVER and family

Creating Agency: Alexander Oliver

Previous Custodian: F. B. Oliver

Series: 19 Contributions to Sydney newspapers

Date Range: ?1880s - 1900s?

Accessions: 1363

Quantity: 2 folders

Item List: no

Box No.: 11

Series Description:

Oliver wrote many columns for various Sydney newspapers on a number of different subject areas, including the law and fishing, as well as having many 'Letters to the Editor' published. This series contains drafts of letters and articles written by Alexander and a small notebook detailing his contributions to the newspapers.

Access: Open
Ownership: University of Sydney
Copyright: University of Sydney
Access Status: Open

P.007 Papers of Alexander OLIVER and family

Creating Agency: Alexander Oliver

Previous Custodian: F. B. Oliver

Series: 20 Invitations

Date Range: ?1880s - 1900s?

Accessions: 1363

Quantity: 2 folders

Item List: no

Box No.: 11

Series Description:

Invitations to Oliver and his family to social occasions given by such individuals as the Governor of NSW, the Archbishop of Sydney, the Premier of NSW, and so on. The invitations are of varying sizes and printed on heavy cardboard.

Access: Open
Ownership: University of Sydney
Copyright: University of Sydney
Access Status: Open

P.007 Papers of Alexander OLIVER and family

Creating Agency: Alexander Oliver

Previous Custodian: F. B. Oliver

Series: 21 Miscellaneous Official Documents

Date Range: 1864 - 1904

Accessions: 1363

Quantity: 1 folder

Item List: no

Box No.: 11 cab. 4/8

Series Description:

This series consists of letters concerning matters relating to Oliver's public life, from both individuals and government departments. Also included in the series is a list of Alexander Oliver's dates of appointment to official positions. The series also contains the Royal Commission appointing Oliver as the Commissioner to inquire into a suitable site for the seat of Government for Australia, and the Commission appointing Oliver to the Presidency of the Land Appeal Court.

Access: Open
Ownership: University of Sydney
Copyright: University of Sydney
Access Status: Open

P.007 Papers of Alexander OLIVER and family

Creating Agency: Alexander Oliver

Previous Custodian: F. B. Oliver

Series: 22 Documents concerning Oliver's boating activities

Date Range: 1866 -1899

Accessions: 1363

Quantity: 1 folder

Item List: yes

Box No.: 11

Series Description:

Oliver was a keen amateur yachtsman and owned a number of boats which he sailed on the harbour from the mid-1860s, including 'Vivandiere', 'Possum', and 'Antidote'. He became a member of the Royal Sydney Yacht Squadron in 1885, and was the Squadron's Rear-Commodore in the 1897-98 season.

Access: Open
Ownership: University of Sydney
Copyright: University of Sydney
Access Status: Open

P.007 Papers of Alexander OLIVER and family

Series: 22 Documents concerning Oliver's boating activities, 1866 - 1899

| <i>Item</i> | <i>Description</i> | <i>Date</i> |
|-------------|---|-------------|
| 1 | Newspaper notice of Royal Sydney Yacht Squadron race with a list of entries that includes Oliver's yacht "Possum" | n.d. |
| 2 | Drawing of what appears to be either a winch of some sort, or a fishing reel | n.d. |
| 3 | Letter from Clarke & Co.'s City Brass Foundry containing drawing of (?) fishing reel attached to boat's gunwhale, perhaps related to the previous item | n.d. |
| 4 | Commission from British Admiralty allowing Oliver to fly the Blue Ensign from his yacht "Vivandiere" | 07 Apr 1866 |
| 5 | Printed account for luncheon given to Dr Milford, Commodore of Prince Alfred Yacht Club, requesting payment, annotated with receipt details of Oliver's payment | 16 Jun 1886 |
| 6 | Copy (?) of letter from Yarrow & Co. London to Rear-Admiral Sir George Tryon, concerning spirit launches | 24 Oct 1888 |
| 7 | Narrative of 18 day cruise of RSYS "Possum" to St George's Sound | Easter 1888 |
| 8 | Notes describing various sailing cruises of the "Possum" | 1888 |
| 9 | Certificate of Royal Sydney Yacht Squadron stating that Oliver's boat "Antidote" is registered with the RSYS and is exempt from Government Duties "both at home and abroad" | 20 Dec 1895 |
| 10 | List of members of the Royal Sydney Yacht Squadron for the season 1897-98 (Oliver listed as Rear-Commodore) | 1897 |

P.007 Papers of Alexander OLIVER and family

Creating Agency: Alexander Oliver

Previous Custodian: F. B. Oliver

Series: 23 Miscellaneous personal documents of Alexander Oliver

Date Range: 1845 - 1904

Accessions: 1363

Quantity: 2 folders

Item List: yes

Box No.: 11-12 cab. 4/8

Series Description:

See attached item list.

Access: Open
Ownership: University of Sydney
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Access Status: Open

P.007 Papers of Alexander OLIVER and family

Series: 23 Miscellaneous personal documents of Alexander Oliver, 1845 - 1904

| <i>Item</i> | <i>Description</i> | <i>Date</i> |
|-------------|---|-------------|
| 1 | Small framed photograph of woman, possibly dating from the 1870s | ?1870s |
| 2 | Small photograph of Lockhead, a boxer, annotated on the back "Lockhead, weight - 18 stone 27/2/1871" | 27 Feb 1871 |
| 3 | Small photograph of Katherine Alice Oliver, died 7 November 1900 at Shelcote aged 22, and sheet of paper with draft designs and verses for her gravestone | ?1890s |
| 4 | Small group of unprovenanced documents with no obvious connection to the Oliver family, possibly family papers(?) | n.d. |
| 5 | Sheet of paper with "computation of pension of Alexander Oliver from 12 February 1864 to 12 May 1892..." | 16 May 1892 |
| 6 | Receipt to Alexander Oliver from Burns, Philp & Company for freight on one 18ft. boat to Lamarai | 18 Sep 1900 |
| 7 | Letter from Alfred Sydney to Edmund Barton | 25 Mar 1889 |
| 8 | Copy of medical certificate for Alexander Oliver, stating that he is suffering from anaemia and "general loss of tone". issued by Dr. Fiaschi | 07 Aug 1903 |
| 9 | First page of a speech made by Oliver to a sitting of the Land Appeal Court concerning the death of Sir William Windeyer | 1897 |
| 10 | Opinion re appeal of Gilchrist Walt and others | n.d. |
| 11 | Letter to Mrs M. A. Richardson concerning a benefit owing to her under the will of Alexander Oliver, deceased [not the same Alexander Oliver] | 20 Jun 1889 |
| 12 | Proof of article(?) by Oliver titled "Constitution and Form of Government of New South Wales" with annotations | 24 Jul 1886 |
| 13 | Pen drawing of figure with title "The Antipodean Liberator" | n.d. |
| 14 | Receipt to Oliver from Edith Kirby for accommodation provided to him and his daughter on Lord Howe Island | 31 Oct 1903 |
| 15 | Poem, not by Oliver, perhaps concerning land titles in NSW | n.d. |
| 16 | Description of painting by Thomas Gainsborough, The Market Cart, Lot 95 of an auction run by Lawson and Smith, auctioneers | n.d. |
| 17 | Copy of letter to the 'Attorney-General', the writer's name is indecipherable | 16 Feb 1887 |
| 18 | Epigram on an unnamed Government department | n.d. |
| 19 | Sheet of paper containing cryptic notes re a court case(?) | n.d. |

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| <i>Item</i> | <i>Description</i> | <i>Date</i> |
|-------------|--|-------------|
| 20 | Memorandum concerning chemicals | 26 Feb 1891 |
| 21 | Signature of William Owen (?) cut from a letter | n.d. |
| 22 | Poem on Australia Club notepaper, signed 'CB July 1860' | July 1860 |
| 23 | Sheet of notepaper headed "Review of Lord Broughton's Recollections of a Long Life in Vol 133 of the Edinburgh Review" | n.d. |
| 24 | Family tree of political parties | n.d. |
| 25 | Sheet of notepaper with discussion of derivation and meaning of the word "cussedness" | n.d. |
| 26 | Poem titled "Australians: Speak! Your Voice is Heard!", signed by F. R. Hopkins | 01 Jan 1901 |
| 27 | List of names, some ticked, some crossed out | ?1880s |
| 28 | Essay or speech titled "Notes for Improvement", perhaps addressed to Oliver's father | 30 Sep 1845 |
| 29 | Printed list of members of the NSW Legislative Assembly for 1888, some crossed out | n.d. |
| 30 | Receipt to Oliver from William Inglis & Son, Horse & Carriage Bazaar for a chestnut gelding of 14 hands and a cream mare also 14 hands high | 17 Jan 1893 |
| 31 | Copy of certificate stating that Oliver has satisfied the examiners in Literae Humaniores and the Rudiments of Religion [at Oxford University?] | 22 Nov 1859 |
| 32 | "List of persons to whom circulars to attend Preliminary Meeting about Windeyer Welcome Home, were sent, and to whom no tickets have been issued" | n.d. |
| 33 | Printed address to Lieutenant Gowlland, R. N. "On the occasion of presenting that Officer with a Testimonial from the Volunteers who accompanied him in the Search for the Shipwrecked Crew of the Brig 'Maria'" | n.d. |
| 34 | Third page of a speech re the Sydney School of Arts, in Oliver's handwriting | n.d. |
| 35 | Unidentified note headed "The Growth of the Australain Co,onies" | n.d. |
| 36 | "Extract from p. 209 of 'The Old Santa Fe Trail' by Col. Henry ???" | n.d. |
| 37 | Page of quotations from various authors | n.d. |

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|-------------|--|-------------|
| 38 | Letter from Charles Mackinnon at Derribong Station, Dandaloo, to a Mr Cardew(?) | 27 Jul 1896 |
| 39 | Copy (?) of statement re irregular workings on the Breeza Line on 14 May 1898 | 23 Sep 1898 |
| 40 | Unidentified piece of writing | n.d. |
| 41 | Notice of meeting of The Church Society for the Diocese of Sydney | 28 Sep 1865 |
| 42 | Two pages of names with amounts written beside each one | n.d. |
| 43 | Subscription list for Mary Deane fund, showing Oliver's name | 12 Oct 1895 |
| 44 | Poem titled "58 to 61" | n.d. |
| 45 | Copy of letter from G. A. Wood to R. C. Walker, with Walker's reply | Sep 1894 |
| 46 | Printed notice of meeting to be held at Oliver's chambers, re return of Justice Windeyer, sent to R. Teece | 09 Jan 1888 |
| 47 | Poem titled "A Civil Servant meditating on Government and not consoled by his Doctor" | n.d. |
| 48 | Draft "Business Announcement" for the 'Parliamentary Log-Rolling Company' [humorous] | n.d. |
| 49 | Poem titled "Fairy Queen" | n.d. |
| 50 | Untitled poem about Reverend Grundy and "Signa Crucis" | n.d. |
| 51 | Untitled poem about a cat | n.d. |
| 52 | Small piece of paper headed "Threlfall borrowed 16/2/96" followed by a list of books | 16 Feb 1896 |
| 53 | Visiting Card of Mrs Alexander Oliver | n.d. |
| 54 | Three sheets of notepaper, two headed 'Tattersall's Hotel', containing a list of names of those who have contributed to the 'Fund for the Erection of Obelisk on site of the Original Fort Bourke' | n.d. |
| 55 | Copy of the will of Alexander Oliver, annotated with date of granting of Probate, 13 July 1904 | 25 Nov 1894 |
| 56 | Printed notice of meeting to be held at Oliver's chambers, re return of Justice Windeyer, annotated on reverse with acceptance of H. W. MacLaurin | 10 Jan 1888 |
| 57 | Draft of obituary for Charles Badham, Professor of Classical Philology at the University of Sydney | 1884 |

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| <i>Item</i> | <i>Description</i> | <i>Date</i> |
|-------------|--|-------------|
| 58 | Marriage Certificate of Alexander Oliver and Eliza Celia Gowlland | 30 Jan 1875 |
| 59 | The works of Horace (in Latin), a prize awarded to Alexander Oliver by Sydney University | 1853 |
| 60 | Two small notebooks of Oliver's containing notes about such things as ferry timetables, sailing trips (including sketch maps), and legal matters | ?1860s |
| 61 | Quarto sized notebook mostly unused, containing poems and sailing notes | ?1890s |
| 62 | Two small notebooks, one missing its cover, containing notes taken by Oliver at University | 1850s |
| 63 | Small notebook containing notes on family history of the Weston family, not in Oliver's hand | n.d. |
| 64 | Small notebook with annotation on inside front cover: "Alexander Oliver, Inner Temple, London", containing notes on legal matters | n.d. |
| 65 | Hand drawn map showing allotments around North Harbour, from Grotto Point to North Head | ?1870s |
| 66 | Certificate on parchment admitting Oliver to the Honourable Society of the Inner Temple and to the Bar [UK] | 26 Mar 1863 |
| 67 | Pencil drawing of 'chaise lounge', perhaps by Oliver, with 'Newton and Lamb' in lower right corner | n.d. |

P.007 Papers of Alexander OLIVER and family

Creating Agency: Alexander Oliver

Previous Custodian: F. B. Oliver

Series: 24 Press cuttings
Date Range: 1860s - 1900s

Accessions: 1363
Quantity: 3 boxes
Item List: no
Box No.: 13-15

Series Description:

Press clippings, mainly from Sydney newspapers dealing with all sorts of matters of interest to Oliver, including fisheries, oyster beds, land leases, legal and court matters, parliamentary matters, coal mining employment conditions, and sailing, to name a few. Some of the cuttings are loose, some are glued to pages and might have originally been kept in foolscap size bound notebooks, there are four foolscap size books containing cuttings glued to the pages, and there are also two large volumes of cuttings. There are a few complete pages from newspapers, and an almost complete edition of the "Town and Country Journal" for 30 June 1883.

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