

AUSTRALIAN JOINT COPYING PROJECT

ANDREW HOLDEN

Memoirs and other papers, 1885-1966

Reel M1157

**Mrs J.N. Campbell
The Rectory
21 Park Road
Stapleton
Bristol**

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

Filmed: 1980

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE

Andrew Holden (1882-1973), the son of Lonsdale Holden and his wife Ellen Ware, was born in Hobart. His father, who was a doctor, had arrived in Hobart in 1877 and was the house surgeon in the General Hospital for eight years. In 1886 he was appointed the health officer at Circular Head, in the north-west of Tasmania, and Andrew Holden attended a school at the small town of Stanley. In 1894 the family returned to Hobart, where they lived at Bellerive. They were close friends of the Bishop of Tasmania, Henry Montgomery, and his family and Andrew Holden shared a tutor with the Montgomery boys. In 1897 he attended the Hutchins School before proceeding to the University of Tasmania in 1900.

In July 1902 Holden sailed to England and he did not return to Australia again. He was a student at Balliol College, Oxford, where he excelled in mathematics and rowing. In 1907 he was appointed a probationer in the Egyptian Civil Service. Based at first in Alexandria and later in Cairo, he served in the Egyptian Civil Service until 1952, shortly before the British withdrew from Egypt.

In 1912 Holden married Una Montgomery (1889-1963), the daughter of Bishop Montgomery and sister of Field Marshal Lord Montgomery. They had five children. After they left Egypt they lived in Guildford, Surrey.

Copyright note

The papers were made available for copying by Andrew Holden's daughter, Mrs J.N. Campbell, on condition that no extracts from the memoirs should be published without her permission.

ANDREW HOLDEN

Reel M1157

- 1 Memoirs of Andrew Holden, 1966.

The typescript memoirs, written by Holden 'for the entertainment of his children', contain 17 chapters, eleven of which deal with his life and work in Egypt between 1907 and 1952. The Australian Joint Copying Project filmed six chapters, relating to his forebears, his life in Tasmania and England between 1884 and 1907, and the early life in Tasmania of his wife, Una Montgomery.

The first two chapters provide brief biographical summaries of many members of the families of Holden's parents, extending back to the sixteenth century. The account of his early life is quite detailed, recalling his boyhood homes, friends and associates, his studies, his voyage to England in 1902, and his life as an undergraduate at Oxford University. The relatively brief memoirs of Una Holden, who spent her early years in Hobart, were copied by Andrew Holden from a manuscript found among her papers after her death.

Chapter

- 1 The Holdens. (37pp)
- 2 The Wares and the Farmers. (20pp)
- 3 Early years at Circular Head, The Nut, 1886-94. (32pp)
- 4 Life at Bellerive (Hobart), 1894-1902. (30pp)
- 5 Oxford, 1902-7. (61pp)
- 8 Una Montgomery, early history. (44pp) [copied by Andrew Holden from a manuscript of Una Holden found among her papers]

Additional items

- 2 Photograph of Andrew Holden and his parents and his sister Ursula at Hobart.
- 3 Photograph of Andrew Holden and classmates at Hutchins School, Hobart.
- 4 Scroll presented to Lonsdale Holden, father of Andrew Holden, by the staff of the Hobart General Hospital, 23 November 1885.
- 5 Memoirs of Lettice Armitage of life in Tasmania in 1887-96, 1954. (manuscript, 20pp)

Lettice Armitage (b. 1887) was the daughter of Joseph Armitage, a doctor at Burnie on the north coast of Tasmania. Her mother died in 1896 and soon afterwards Joseph Armitage and his children returned to England.