

AUSTRALIAN JOINT COPYING PROJECT

GEORGE KERSHAW

Memorandum book, 1840-55

Reel M435

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Beckfords
Warren Road
Near Wargrave, Berkshire**

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

Filmed: 1962

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE

George Kershaw was born in Wakefield, Yorkshire, in 1801. He married Selina Hirst in 1823 and they had several children. He worked as a plasterer in Yorkshire and recorded that he had a fall from the top of one of the walls of York Castle in 1834. In 1840 he and his family moved to Liverpool. They sailed to Australia on the Columbine in 1840-41 and Kershaw immediately found work as a plasterer in Sydney. Among the many buildings that he worked on during the following years was Government House, which was completed in 1845. In 1849 Kershaw moved to Braidwood where he joined the Police Force. Selina Kershaw died in Braidwood in 1855 and there is no information about Kershaw's later life. He died in 1878.

The notebook of George Kershaw is now held in the Mitchell Library, Sydney. (MLMSS 624) The Mitchell Library also holds a photograph of Kershaw. (P1/887)

GEORGE KERSHAW

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Memorandum book kept by George Kershaw in England and New South Wales, 1840-55

The memoranda are written in an 1836 memoranda book issued by the London stationers and publishers J. & F. Harwood. Kershaw appears to have been a compulsive recorder of his daily life. In addition to using the volume for two skeletal diaries in 1841 and 1849, he recorded his employment, rents, purchases, cash payments, lectures attended, and the births, deaths and marriages of family members. The various memoranda are not in a single chronological sequence and it would seem that Kershaw initially left many pages blank and filled them in as time passed.

The diaries, listings, memoranda and notes appear in the following order.

Record of employment by Messrs. Fairclough, plasterers of Liverpool, 29 April 1840-13 Aug. 1841. (3pp)

Yearly receipt of cash since arriving in the colony, 1842-45.

Diary kept on a voyage on the *Columbine* from Liverpool to Sydney, 20 August – 11 December 1841. (15pp) The brief entries refer to the weather, the seas, sightings of ships, albatrosses, church services, deaths of passengers, sighting of St Pauls and King Island and Kershaw's arrival in Sydney.

Record of employment with W. Turtun, plasterer of Sydney, 18 Dec. 1841-27 Sept. 1845. (10pp) It refers to work at Balmain, Redfern, Chippendale and Woolloomooloo, as well as the centre of the town, and a long period working on the new Government House.

Gold produced at Wanambura (?) Creek, 15 Sept. 1851-27 Aug. 1852. (1p)

Record of travelling since joining the New South Wales Police, 19 Feb-27 Aug. 1850. (2pp) There are references to Braidwood, Goulburn, Reesdale (Reidsdale?) and Jinglemoney.

Diary of a journey from Braidwood to Sydney and back, 13 Nov.-11 Dec. 1849. (2pp)

Record of purchases of hay and barley, 1849-51. (1p)

Notes on the Old and New Testament. (2pp)

Rent paid to Woodall, Willoughby and Oxley (Glebe), Houston (Redfern) and Doolan (Braidwood), 1 Feb. 1844-10 Sept. 1849. (2pp)

Provisions for passengers weighed by Steele and George Kershaw. (1p)

Notices of lectures at St Bride's Church, Liverpool, 20 Oct.-15 Dec. 1840. (3pp)

Time at Low Hill Cemetery, Liverpool, 21 May-11 June 1841. (2pp)

Record of plastering work carried out in Sydney, 29 Oct. 1843-6 Feb. 1846. (7pp)

Inventory of property received when sworn in as a constable at Braidwood, 18 Oct. 1849. (1p)

Rent paid since arrival in the colony, 18 Nov. 1844-18 Aug. 1845. (3pp)

Employment of William A. Kershaw with Eccleston, Sydney, 18 Dec. 1841-19 April 1842.

Record of births, marriages and deaths (mainly) of relatives and friends, including his own birth at Wakefield (1801), his marriage to Selina Hirst at Leeds (1823) and the deaths of his father John Kershaw (1817), his mother Hannah Kershaw (1825), his sister Bessy (1833), his daughter Martha Kershaw (1834), his daughter Selina Kershaw (1836), his daughter Matilda Kershaw (1838), his daughter Emma Kershaw (1841) and his wife Selina Kershaw (1855). (6pp)

Record of lodgers, 12 Jan???

Cash payments, 1843. (1p)

Goods purchased, 1849. (1p)