

AUSTRALIAN JOINT COPYING PROJECT

CAPTAIN FRANCIS CADELL

Papers, 1837-80

Reel M464

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BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE

Francis Cadell (1822-1879) was born at Cockenzie, Scotland, the son of Hew Francis Cadell, a mine-owner and shipbuilder. He was educated in Edinburgh and Cuxhaven. He joined the East Indiaman *Minerva* in 1836 and took part in the war with China in 1839. He later sailed to South American ports. He returned to Scotland in 1846 and studied shipbuilding and the use of steamships for navigation. In 1851 he sailed the *Queen of Sheba*, which had been built to his specifications, to the Pacific Ocean and Australia.

In 1852 Cadell negotiated with the South Australian Government to take a steamer up the River Murray as far as the junction with the Darling River. In August 1853 he arrived at Encounter Bay and took the steamer *Lady Augusta* through the mouth of the Murray. A month later he reached Swan Hill. He was rewarded with a substantial payment from the South Australian Government, as well as a gold medal. He formed the River Murray Navigation Company which bought a number of steamers, one of which sailed up the Murray as far as Albury in 1855. He later took ships up the Murrumbidgee and Darling Rivers and founded the port of Milang, near the mouth of the Murray. His business failed in 1861-62 and he subsequently moved to New Zealand, where he supervised steam transport on the Waikato River.

In 1866 Cadell returned to South Australia and in the following year he led an expedition to the Northern Territory to select a site for a capital and an area for agricultural settlement. He spent most of a year exploring a large area including the Liverpool, Roper and Victoria Rivers, but his recommendations were ignored. He spent his last years trading in the Pacific islands and operating a pearling fleet on the northern coast of Australia. He disappeared in the Dutch East Indies in 1879 and it was alleged that he had been murdered in his schooner *Gem* by the cook's mate for not paying his wages for five years.

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1. John (?) Cadell (Madras) to his brother Francis Cadell, 12 Oct. 1837. (crossed letter)
2. Memorial of Capt. Francis Cadell to the Lord Commissioners of the Admiralty seeking a medal for his services in the Chinese expedition, Oct. 1846.
3. Certificate signed by George Ireland (master) stating that Francis Cadell served as fifth mate on the *Minerva* between 3 May 1839 and 1 February 1840.
4. Rough sketch of the canvas boat in which Cadell descended the River Murray from Swan Hill to the mouth of the river in 1852.
5. Hew F. Cadell. Memorandum regarding his son Francis Cadell, 'the Explorer of the River Murray and other Rivers in Australia', 6 August 1862. (9pp)
6. Hew F. Cadell (Cockenzie). Memorial to the Duke of Newcastle, Secretary of State for the Colonies, seeking a land grant for Francis Cadell, 11 August 1862. (4pp, draft)
7. Governor Sir Henry Young (Adelaide) to Francis Cadell, 24 Oct. 1853: forwards address of Legislative Council on opening of steam navigation on River Murray; design of a medal (1p, copy), together with a copy of Cadell's reply, 27 Oct. 1853, and a copy of a letter from John Morphett, Speaker of the Legislative Council of South Australia.
8. Francis Cadell to Sir Henry Young, 23 June 1854: navigability of the River Murray. (4pp, extract)
9. Colonial Office. *Copies or extracts of despatches from the Governor of South Australia on the subject of the navigation of the River Murray*, ordered to be printed by the House of Commons, 7 March 1854. (15pp)
10. Francis Cadell. Report of the Northern Territory exploration, 26 Aug. 1867. (ms, 28pp, copy)
11. First Government Secretary (Batavia) to the brother of Francis Cadell, 25 Feb. 1880: account of the death of Francis Cadell. (copy)
12. Printed sheet headed *Navigation of the Murray*, 1853 and printed extract from a speech of Mr Morris in the Riverine debate in the Legislative Assembly of New South Wales, 1864.

13. 'Adventure in the first steamer, the *Melbourne*, out of the mouth of the River Murray on 28 August 1854'. (typescript, 6pp)
14. Memorandum of the services of Francis Cadell, 'explorer of the Murray River', n.d. (5pp), together with a rough draft.
15. Address to Francis Cadell from the Murray settlers of New South Wales and Victoria when he was approaching the boundaries of South Australia on the *Lady Augusta*, 7 October 1852. (3pp, copy)
16. Address to Captain Cadell from officers of the Waikato Steam Navigation Service, Auckland, 26 March 1866. (1p, copy)
17. Memorandum on the services of Francis Cadell, n.d. (7pp, first sheet with Cockenzie letterhead)
18. Manuscript entitled 'Australia', including notes on the maritime discovery of Australia, the colonisation of New South Wales, Port Phillip and South Australia, the goldfields, the River Murray steamships, the life of Francis Cadell, shipping routes to Australia, and the Australian Aborigines, n.d. (40pp)
19. Obituaries and other newspaper cuttings relating to the life of Francis Cadell, 1879-80.
20. Cutting book, mainly relating to Francis Cadell and the navigation of the River Murray, 1852-56. The cuttings, which include shipping notices, were taken from a large number of newspapers in Australia and Britain, including the *South Australian Register*, *Adelaide Times*, *Adelaide Observer*, *Weekly Dispatch* (Adelaide), *The Argus* (Melbourne), *Border Post* (Albury), *Sydney Morning Herald*, *The Empire* (Sydney), *Maitland Mercury*, *Australian and New Zealand Gazette* (London), *The Times* (London), *London Illustrated News* and *The Sun* (London). In addition, there are printed maps of New South Wales and Victoria (1852), the proposed River Murray and Encounter Bay Railway (1850) and a sketch by J.W. Pullen of the mouth of the River Murray (1840).
21. Cutting book, mainly relating to Francis Cadell, the navigation of the River Murray, Murray trade and colonial borders, 1857-60. Most of the cuttings are from the *Border Post* (Albury). Others were taken from the *South Australian Register*, *Wagga Wagga Express* and the *Australian and New Zealand Gazette* (London). The volume also contains a photograph of Francis Cadell.
22. Cutting book concerning the Northern Territory expedition led by Francis Cadell, 1867-68. The newspapers represented include the *South Australian Register*, *Adelaide Observer*, *Sydney Morning Herald*, *Riverine Herald* (Echuca), *Australian and New Zealand Gazette* (London), *The Times* (London), *The Athenaeum* (London) and *The Scotsman* (Edinburgh).