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JEFFCOTT AND KERMODE FAMILIES

Papers, 1831-1912

Reel M723

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BIOGRAPHICAL NOTES

Sir John William Jeffcott (1796-1837) was born in Ireland and educated at Trinity College, Dublin. He was called to the English Bar in 1826. He applied for legal posts in the colonies and in 1830 was appointed Chief Justice of Sierra Leone and Gambia. He was knighted in 1833. In the same year, while he was on leave in England, he took part in a duel at Exeter and mortally wounded Peter Hennis. He left for Africa before he could be apprehended, but did not resume his judicial duties. In 1834 he surrendered at Exeter and was tried for murder, but was acquitted when no evidence was tendered. Jeffcott was unemployed until 1836, when he was appointed judge of the new colony of South Australia. On the way he stayed for several months with his cousin William Kermode in Van Diemen's Land and he did not arrive in Adelaide until May 1837. He held the first criminal sessions and set up the Supreme Court, but was drowned in December 1837 when a whaleboat overturned at the mouth of the River Murray.

Sir William Jeffcott (1800-1855) was the brother of Sir John Jeffcott. He was called to the Irish Bar in 1828 and practised in Dublin for many years. In 1843 he emigrated to Australia and, within a few weeks of his arrival, he was appointed judge of the Supreme Court at Port Phillip. He resigned in 1845 and returned to Ireland. In 1849 he was appointed Recorder of Singapore and Malacca and knighted.

John Moore Jeffcott (1817-1892) was called to the Manx Bar in 1839 and in time had the largest legal practice in the southern part of the Isle of Man. He was High Bailiff of Castletown from 1866 to 1892. In 1852 he married Lucy Crellin, the daughter of John and Catherine Crellin. His father, John Jeffcott, was the uncle of Sir John Jeffcott and Sir William Jeffcott. His mother, Catherine Jeffcott, was the sister of Anne Kermode, the wife of William Kermode.

William Kermode (1780-1852) was born on the Isle of Man and was a merchant seaman. He married Anne Moore in 1810. He visited Australia in 1819, 1821 and 1823 and, with his family, he settled permanently in Van Diemen's Land in 1827. He acquired a large property near Ross which he called 'Mona Vale'. It ultimately became one of the finest sheep stations in the colony. He was a member of the Legislative Council in 1842-45 and 1848-50.

Robert Quayle Kermode (1812-1870), the eldest child of William and Anne Kermode, was born on the Isle of Man and educated at Castletown. He arrived in Van Diemen's Land with his father in 1827 and worked with his father on the development of the 'Mona Vale' estates. He was a keen supporter of the anti-transportation movement. He was a member of the Legislative Council in 1851-54, 1856-57 and 1864-68 and a member of the Legislative Assembly in 1857-59 and 1861-62.

JEFFCOTT AND KERMODE FAMILIES

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1. Kermode Family

Biographical notes on William Kermode (1780-1852), including his journeys, and his son Robert Kermode (1812-1870), with details of their children. (typescript, 12pp)

2. Sir John Jeffcott (1796-1837)

Sir John Jeffcott (Dublin) to John M. Jeffcott (Isle of Man), 6 Sept. 1834: his friendship for Jeffcott and his family despite their long separation; intends to visit Isle of Man. (4pp)

Sir John Jeffcott (Mona Vale, Van Diemen's Land) to John M. Jeffcott, 4 March 1837: departure from England; appointment as judge of South Australia; visit to Van Diemen's Land; description of property of William Kermode; kindness of his family; beauty of landscape. (8pp)

Sir John Jeffcott (Adelaide) to William Kermode (Mona Vale), 5 Nov. 1837: return to South Australia; wreck of *Sir Charles McCarthy* in Holdfast Bay; colony in dreadful state politically; has requested a transfer to Van Diemen's Land; dispute between Sir John Hindmarsh and H. Fisher; imprudence of Hindmarsh; population split in two by dissension; predicts South Australia will be the scene of anarchy and confusion. (20pp)

3. Sir William Jeffcott (1800-1855)

William Jeffcott (Dublin) to Catherine Jeffcott (Isle of Man), 9 Jan. 1831: illness during last two years; awaits permission to go to Calcutta; brother John is now Chief Justice of Sierra Leone. (4pp)

William Jeffcott (Dublin) to John M. Jeffcott (Isle of Man), 7 Dec. 1831: Jeffcott's successful career as a barrister; his interest in assisting his cousin; his brother John is now Chief Justice of South Australia; refers to his duel with Peter Hennis. (4pp)

William Jeffcott to John M. Jeffcott, 6 Jan. 1838: hopes Jeffcott will visit him in Dublin; his professional success; no news of Sir John Jeffcott. (4pp)

Sir William Jeffcott (Penang) to John M. Jeffcott (Isle of Man), 2 Feb. 1853: congratulations on his marriage. (4pp)

4. William Kermode (1780-1852)

William Kermode (Mona Vale, Van Diemen's Land) to John M. Jeffcott (Isle of Man), 1 Feb. 1838: death of Sir John Jeffcott; administration of his effects; his papers will be despatched by Robert Kermode; Jeffcott was to have married Kermode's daughter Anne; farming; Kermode intends to return to Isle of man in 1839; visit by Sir John and Lady Franklin. (4pp)

William Kermode to John M. Jeffcott, 1 Feb. 1838: extracts from letter in a different hand. (2pp)

William Kermode to John M. Jeffcott, 20 March 1838: despatch of papers of Sir John Jeffcott; Sir John Hindmarsh's high opinion of Jeffcott; land sales.

William Kermode to Sir John Hindmarsh, 26 April 1838: seeks return of Sir John Jeffcott's papers; improper use by Governor's private secretary; Jeffcott's connections with Kermode Family. (copy, 2pp))

William Kermode (Hobart) to John M. Jeffcott, 1 June 1843: success of William Jeffcott as a barrister in Sydney; news and lack of news of mutual friends; land sales. (4pp)

William Kermode (Mona Vale) to John M. Jeffcott, 19 Dec. 1846: visit by C. La Trobe from Port Phillip; banking and financial matters; Kermode has begun to despair of returning to England; preoccupied with land and stock; recommends book by Count Strzelecki. (crossed, 4 pp)

William Kermode to John M. Jeffcott, 13 March 1851: family news; mutual friends; Robert Kermode urged to stand for new legislature; Sir William Denison so detested his term as governor will be short; wool sales; anti-transportation movement. (4pp)

5. Anne Quayle Kermode

Anne Kermode (Mona Vale, Van Diemen's Land) to Catherine Crellin (Isle of Man), 31 Jan. 1834: Robert shortly to visit Isle of Man; family news; failure of crops. (4pp)

Anne Kermode to Catherine Crellin, 10 April 1837: Robert packing boxes of birds and insects. (4pp)

6. Robert Quayle Kermode (1812-1870)

Robert Kermode (Liverpool) to John M. Jephcott (Isle of Man), 23 April 1835: travels in England; about to leave for Dublin. (4pp)

Robert Kermode (Hobart) to John M. Jephcott, 21 July 1835: death of his father, mother and wife; father's will and legacies; news of his children; responsible government; his election to Legislative Council; efforts to end transportation; congratulations on marriage. (10pp)

Manuscript copy of obituary of Robert Quayle Kermode, *Sydney Morning Herald*, 17 May 1870.

Newspaper obituary of Robert Qualyle Kermode, n.d.

7. Robert Crellin Kermode (1847-1927)

Robert Kermode (Mona Vale, Van Diemen's Land) to Lucy Crellin (Isle of Man), 26 May 1911: refers to his visit to Isle of Man; legal and church activities; potato blight in northern Tasmania. (4pp)

Robert Kermode to Lucy Crellin, 5 Jan. 1912: thanks for information on his father; visit to Adelaide and meeting with Sir Samuel Way; Kermode and Jephcott streets in Adelaide. (2pp)