

Kuruc-a-ruc Homestead Collection

- [Scope and content note](#)
- ['A pioneer family 1841-1903'](#)
- [Dog rocks survey](#)
- [Small cardboard album](#)
- [Burgundy coloured album](#)
- [Large album & list of photographers](#)

Scope and content note

Situated in the Victorian township of Rokewood, Kuruc-a-ruc homestead was under the ownership of the Elder family from 1863-1963. The collection belonged to Miss Marion Elder, whose Grandparents Nairne Guthrie and Jessie Elder lived on the property.

Featured in the collection is a photographic copy of a manuscript entitled 'A pioneer family 1841-1903'. The manuscript details the history of the Rowe family from the time of William Rowe's arrival in Australia. During his search for land William spent time staying at Kuruc-a-ruc, which was then under the ownership of the Aitchinson family. The Rowe family acquired a large amount of land in the region, including the property of Glenfine.

The collection also contains a large album of portraits, taken predominantly by Melbourne and Geelong photographers.

Two other albums feature miscellaneous family photographs. There is also a small collection of loose photographs and a newspaper article, which relate to a survey of the "Dog Rocks" near Geelong.



'A pioneer family 1841-1903'

The manuscript details a history of the Rowe family from the time of William Rowe's arrival in Australia in 1841. It provides an account of family life in regional Victoria during the second half of the 19th Century.

While in search of land, William became ill. During this time he stayed at Kuruc-aruc, which was then owned by the Aitchinson family. Through their assistance, William acquired local land known as "Naringal" and set up a sheep station. In 1857 he also purchased the nearby property of Glenfine. His son, William Thomas Rowe, later took over management of the property and commissioned the construction of the Glenfine homestead c.1873.

William Thomas married Elizabeth Stretch, daughter of Geelong's Archdeacon, Reverend Theodore Carlos Benoni Stretch. The manuscript primarily focuses on their life together at the homestead, including a period in the 1890s when the region became popular for gold mining. Elizabeth facilitated the development of the "Hollybush" township, which was built on the property to cater for miners of the Glenfine South mine.

The manuscript is accompanied by a photograph of cattle pulling a log through the bush.

Dog rocks survey

The collection contains eight loose and unlabelled photographs, which relate to a survey of the Dog Rocks near Geelong. These include images of landscape and native flora. Several photographs feature people involved in the survey and their cars. Accompanying the photographs is a newspaper clipping 'National Park Plans' by Charles Barrett.

Small cardboard album

The album contains a collection of unlabelled photographs, featuring images of people, picnics, the seaside, farming equipment and horses.

Burgundy coloured album

The album is only partially filled. It includes unlabelled photographs, which feature images of children at the beach, local buildings and sailing boats. A significant number of images appear to relate to an international vacation. The album includes some loose photographs, including a portrait of a young child, which features the signature of Melbourne photographer, Alice Mills (1870-1929).

Large album & list of photographers

The album predominantly contains portraits taken by Melbourne and Geelong photographers. Ballarat, Sydney and international photographers are also featured, as well as one portrait each from photographers in Rokewood, Adelaide and Hobart.

Miscellaneous photographs which appear in the album include the image of a Buninyong cemetery headstone, which features the family name Gillespie.

The table below provides a list of photographers featured in the album. Photographs are numbered by page and either A, B, C or D (left to right, top to bottom on the page), corresponding with their location in the album.

Photographer / Studio	Location	Dates	Photo
Alexander Brothers	88 Renfield Street, Glasgow		24D
Bardwell, William	Royal Arcade, Melbourne	1888-92	30
Bateman, John	St. George's Street, Canterbury		24C
Bear, William	60 Moorabool Street, Geelong	1880s	6
Burman, William J	209 Bourke Street East, St. George's Hall, Melbourne		12C
Chuck, Thomas Foster London Portrait Gallery	Royal Arcade, Bourke Street East, Melbourne	1870-74	25A
Creelman & Co Burlington Galleries	Sydney Arcade, 408 George Street, Sydney	1886-1900	18
Duryea, T	158a Rundle Street, Adelaide		26A
Foster & Martin	29 & 31 Collins Street East, Melbourne	1879-87	13D 15 20 21D 27C
Freeman & Co	346 George Street, Sydney	1880-90	21A 21B 22A
Grouzelle, Louis	69 & 71 Swanston Street, Melbourne	1887-91	7A
Hellis, Robert & Sons	13 Silver Street, Notting Hill Gate W & 30 Clapham Road S. W, London	1870-	24A
Imperial Photographic Co	109 Elizabeth Street, Melbourne	1884-86	7C 13C
Jamieson, J	42 Lothian Road, Edinburgh		10A 10B

Johnstone, O'Shannessy & Co	3 Bourke Street, Melbourne	1865-86	7B 8A 11B 14C 21C 23C 25B 26C
	55 & 57 Collins Street, Melbourne	1886-88	4
Kilpatrick	8 Donegall Place, Belfast		5
Lindt, John William	7 Collins Street East, Melbourne	1876-88	13A 22B 24B 25D
Matthews, William T & Co	60 Moorabool Street, Geelong	1880-81	8C 8D 11D
Matthews, William T & McGill, Helen	60 Moorabool Street, Geelong		12A 23B
F. B. Mendelssohn & Co Queens Walk Studios	80 Swanston Street, Melbourne	1889- 1900	17
Millist, Robert William	Rokewood	1898	2
Perry, George William	Melbourne	1855-97	1
Richards, George & Co	19 Sturt Street, Ballarat	1886-96	9D
Shaw, George Viewpark Photo Art Studios	Bruntsfield Links, Edinburgh		26B
Stewart & Co	217 Bourke Street, Melbourne	1879-91	14D
	217 & 219 Bourke Street, Melbourne	1881-89	14A 14B 31
	284-286 Bourke Street, Melbourne	1899- 1900	19
Turner, Joseph & Co	60 Moorabool Street, Geelong	1857-64	12D
Turner, Joseph New Portrait Rooms	66 Moorabool Street, Geelong	1865-67	11C 25C
Tuttle & Co	84 Elizabeth Street, Melbourne	1883-91	22D
Waddington, Edmund Cosworth & Co	109 Elizabeth Street, Melbourne	1883-84	9C 10C 11A

Wherrett, Charles Melbourne Portrait Rooms	83 Elizabeth Street, Hobart	1872-81	8B 10D
Willett's Art Studio	161 Moorabool Street, Geelong	1889- 1909	16
Willett's Elite Studio	Sturt & Bridge Streets, Ballarat		9A
Willett's Photographic Temple of Light	30 Bridge Street, Ballarat	1888-91	9B 12B
Wilmot & Key Geelong Portrait Gallery	31 Malop Street, Geelong	1865-	23A 23D
Yeoman, John & Co	47 Chapel Street, Prahran	1884-91	32
	169 Bourke Street East, Melbourne	1885-99	7D