

Finding Aid for the Mack School Textbook Collection

Descriptive summary:

Title

Mack School Textbook Collection

Date range of collection

1861 – 1949

Scope and content note

The Mack family, from the “Berry Bank” property in Lismore, Victoria (Western District), were an old pastoral family, well known for their breeding of merino sheep.

The school textbooks, workbooks and reading materials in this collection were used by the eleven Mack children. Initially the children were taught by a governess at their home, but later the boys attended Melbourne Church of England Grammar School. Included in the collection are textbooks and student workbooks of French, Latin and English, with the earliest text published in 1861. Some of the workbooks can be aligned with exercises from these textbooks. The reading materials in the collection were owned and used by the Mack family and their extended family.

Provenance

This collection was donated to Deakin University Library Special Collections in two separate deposits by William Mack, a descendant of the Mack family. The first deposit was of school textbooks and related materials; the second deposit contained reading materials.

Extent

x4 manuscript boxes (the first box contains the textbook collection, and the remaining three boxes contain the reading materials.)

Location

The collection is located in the Special Collection, Deakin University Library, Geelong Waterfront Campus, at call number: DU SPMSS 373.944 Mac/Mst

Administrative information:

Access

Open – Library Use Only. Inquiries - Special Collections Librarian, kristen.thornton@deakin.edu.au

Processing History

Original donation of school textbooks and workbooks arranged and described in May 2011 by Melinda Finnigan, archives student. The second and final donation of reading materials was described, listed, and added to the finding aid by Kristen Thornton, Special Collections Librarian, in April 2023.

Historical Background:

Joseph Gardner Mack (1805 – 1868), from Bunkle, Berwickshire in Scotland, arrived in Australia as a free settler and married Anna Austin (1812 – 1866) on the 28 January 1836 in New Norfolk, Van Diemen's Land. With his wife and three children, he crossed Bass Strait from Van Diemen's Land to the Port Phillip District in 1840.

During this time, he is known to have purchased land in Corio Terrace (now known as Brougham Street) for £80. The original hotel in Corio Terrace was the Wool Pack Inn and was renamed Mack's Hotel, when the license was in Mack's name in 1841 and 1842. The name 'Mack's Hotel' remained even when a new building was erected in 1846 and it still stands today.

The Mack family settled near Geelong by taking up land at 'Gherangemarajah', between Cressy and Lismore. Mack renamed the property 'Berry Bank' after his childhood home in Scotland, and it was his sixth child (of eleven), Joseph, who continued as a grazier on the property.

Joseph Mack Snr died from injuries following a kick from a horse at age 62 or 64 and is buried with his wife at East Geelong Presbyterian Cemetery (The National Library of Australia houses a typescript journal written by Jane Caverhill (1841-1894), the daughter of Joseph Mack Snr, entitled "Early life in Australia 1841 to 1889." It gives detailed descriptions of the Mack family, their experiences in the Western District and life at 'Berrybank').

Joseph Mack Jnr (1845 – 1926) married Helen Elizabeth Dodds (1850 – 1915) on the 18 August 1869. A small collection of 1889-90 wool specimens of Mack's merino sheep is located at the Powerhouse Museum, Sydney, as part of a wool collection program from 1804 – 2003, as a record of wool growing in Australia. Erika Dicker, Assistant Curator of the Powerhouse Museum states that: "Berrybank was one of the first Victorian properties to breed with Wanganella blood. Wanganella was one of the most prolific merino breeding properties in the 1800s and today over 70% of merinos in Australia are descended from their breeding stock."

By 1895 Joseph and Helen had eleven children, all born at Berry Bank: Joseph Gardner, Amy Maud, Helen Elizabeth, Anna, John Dodds, Eva, Sydney Arthur, Ernest Harold, Norman Oscar, Stanley, and Mary Catherine. The children were initially taught by a governess at their home and the boys later attended Melbourne Church of England Grammar School. Helen Mack attended The Priory in St Kilda, Melbourne.

Joseph was a Justice of the Peace, Councillor of the Shire of Hampden from 1876 to 1889 and Shire President between 1888 and 1889. He died on 21 July 1926. His wife Helen died in September 1915, in Melbourne, Victoria.

Of the Mack children, the following is known:

Joseph continued wool grazing at Berry Bank.

Helen (known as Nellie) became Dux of The Priory School, in Alma Road St Kilda, 1890. She matriculated in 1891 in Algebra, Geometry, English, German [failed], Arithmetic, Geography and French (honours) but did not continue to Melbourne University. Some of the workbooks in this collection show her work.

John was enlisted with the Light Horse Regiment in 1915.

Ernest was a Lieutenant in the 8th Light Horse but was killed in action in December 1916 in Egypt.

Stanley joined the 1st AIF in September 1914, aged 25, as a private and returned to Australia in September 1915. On 14 December 1940, he married Mary Christina Bleazby, daughter of Robert Bleazby and Etta Georgina (Stokes) Bleazby.

Accounts, correspondence, and diary records of Joseph Mack (1845 – 1926) are located at the Geelong Heritage Centre. The business of Berry Bank Pty Ltd was wound up in 1978. The term Berrybank (note, no space between the words) is now known as a locality just off the Hamilton Highway in southwest Victoria. It is near the Gnarkeet Chain of Ponds and Joseph J. Mack (great-grandson of Joseph Gardner Mack) authored “Chain of ponds: a narrative of a Victorian pioneer” in 1983.

The Mack School Textbook collection comprises school textbooks, workbooks and reading material used by the Mack family children. The textbooks are French, Latin, and English, with the earliest being published in 1861 and some of the workbooks can be aligned with exercises from these textbooks. The reading materials include novels and magazines presented to and owned and used by the Mack family. Several were owned and used by the Bleazby family, as Mary Bleazby married Stanley Mack in 1940.

Sources:

Caverhill, Jane. (1881). [Reminiscences \[manuscript\]](#). State Library of Victoria.

Geelong and District, (2010). Mack's Hotel [originally the Wool Pack Inn]. Retrieved from: <http://zades.com.au/gandd/index.php/geelong/pppluck/348>

Jones, Gwen. ‘Growing up in the 1850s: children at home and at school’ in “[The Colonial Child](#)”, pp. 32-38; Papers presented at the 8th Biennial Conference of the Royal Historical Society of Victoria, Melbourne, 12-13 December 1979. Ed. Guy Featherstone, Royal Historical Society of Victoria, Melbourne, 1981.

Mack family (1915). [Letters, 1915-16 \[manuscript\]](#). State Library of Victoria.

Mack, J.J. (1983). [Chain of Ponds: a narrative of a Victorian pioneer](#). Newtown, Victoria: Neptune Press.

Mack Family. (188-). [Papers \[MS 3888\]](#). National Library of Australia.

Powerhouse Museum collection. Retrieved from: <http://www.powerhousemuseum.com/collection/database/?irn=367962>

WikiTree – Joseph Mack (1845-1926). Retrieved from: <https://www.wikitree.com/wiki/Mack-1632>

Box contents:

Folder No.	Date	Type	Description	Notes
1	1861	Publication	First French Reading Book by Dr F Ahn. New Edition. T. J. Allman: London. 130 pages.	Missing spine. Used by Amy Mack.
2	1864	Publication	A Practical Introduction to Latin Prose Composition: Part 1 by Thomas K Arnold. 13th Edition. London. 215 pages.	Used with workbook located in Folder 17.
2	1869	Publication	New Grammar of French Grammars. Lockwood & Co. London.	Used by J. Mack with workbook located in Folder 16.
3	1870	Publication	The Etymology and Syntax of the English Language by the Rev. Alex Crombie. 10th Edition. London. 346 pages.	Top of pages uncut by printer. Missing cover.
3	1870	Publication	A Smaller Grammar of the Latin Language by William Smith. London. "For the use of the Middle and Lower forms in schools". 218 pages.	Missing spine.
4	30/07/1886	Sketch book	"Mapping". Hand drawing copies of atlas maps. Includes map of Victoria; map of Victoria showing division by counties in 1886. 11 pages of maps and 1 page of hand sketches.	Sketched by Nellie (Helen) Mack.
5	1888	Workbook	Front - "Repetition Questions and Answers." Reverse - "Christmas Examinations 1888." Hardcover.	
6	03/04/1889	Workbook	Front - "Biography. 3rd April 1889." Reverse - "General Questions. 18th February 1889." 43 pages. Hardcover.	Used by Jack (John) Mack and Amy Maud Mack.
7	03/04/1889	Workbook	Front - "Biographies. April 3rd 1889." Reverse - "Questions and Answers." Hardcover.	Used by N (Helen Mack).
8	Nov 1889	Workbook	The Progressive Copy Books Workbook. Small hand with capitals. 12 pages. Softcover.	
9	17/06/1889	Workbook	The Progressive Copy Books Workbook. Text and half-text alternatively. 12 pages. Softcover.	Used by Amy Mack.
10	22/11/1889	Workbook	Front - "Repetition. 22 November 1889. Questions and Answers." Reverse - "Examination Answers. December 1889." Hardcover.	
11	23/02/1890	Workbook	The Progressive Copy Books Workbook. Small hand with capitals. 12 pages. Softcover.	Used by Annie Mack.

12	22/08/1892	Workbook	Front – exercise answers in French. Reverse – exercise answers in Latin. 48 pages.	Used by Annie Mack. Missing covers.
13	Unknown	Workbook	“Repetition”. Hardcover. 52 pages. ? 1886 – 1889	Used by Nellie (Helen) Mack. Front cover missing.
14	Unknown	Workbook	Contents - Latin grammar. Soft cover workbook. 26 pages.	Used by A. Mack.
15	Unknown	Sketch book	Hand drawn pictures, e.g., pear, woman’s shoe. 8 pages.	
16	Unknown	Workbook	“Church of England Grammar School” workbook. Arithmetic, Latin and French. 15 pages, some loose.	Used by A. Mack.
17	Unknown	Workbook	“Church of England Grammar School” workbook. Latin and French. 16 pages, some loose.	Used by A. Mack.
18	Unknown	Workbook	Hardback. Arithmetic. 44 pages.	
19	Unknown	Publication	Psalms and Hymns. Original and Selected. 4th Edition, First B. Edition. Melbourne.	
20	1892	Publication	The Poetical Works of Byron. Henry Frowde, London.	‘To A.E. Mack from her mother, 8 April 1892’
21	1811	Publication	Life of Johnson by Boswell. Vols 1 & 2. George Newnes Ltd., London.	
22		Publication	Bacon’s Essays. Ed. F.A. Howe. D.C. Heath & Co., London.	‘R. Bleazby’
23		Publication	The Twins That Did Not Pair. H. Louisa Bedford. The Religious Tract Society, London.	‘Molly Bleazby, Xmas, 1922’
24		Publication	Mrs Beeton’s Book of Household Management. Ward, Lock & Co., London.	
25		Publication	Lorna Doone. R.D. Blackmore. Readers Library, London. 2 vols.	
26	1897	Publication	On Heroes, Hero-Worship and the Heroic in History. Thomas Carlyle. George Routledge & Sons, London.	‘C. Harley Stokes from E.G.S., Xmas 1898’

27	1907	Publication	Cornhill Magazine. Smith, Elder & Co., London. Vol. XXIII, July-Dec. 1907.	'N. Mack Berry Bank'
28	1908	Publication	Cornhill Magazine. Smith, Elder & Co., London. Vol. XXIV, Jan.-June 1908.	
29	1914	Publication	King Albert's Book. The Daily Telegraph, London.	'N. Mack Berry Bank'
30	1901	Publication	Crankisms. Lisle de Vaux. Henry Coates & Co., Philadelphia.	'To Nellie, wishing her many happy returns of the day from Mary, April 1912'
31		Publication	A Tale of Two Cities. Charles Dickens. The Readers Library, London.	'Molly Bleazby from Mother, Nov. 22, 1925'
32		Publication	Silas Marner. George Eliot. T. Nelson & Sons, London.	'Beryl Mann'
33	1913	Publication	The Honourable Mr Tawnish. Jeffrey Farnol. Sampson Low, Marson & Co., London.	'N.M. Merry Xmas from S.M., 1913'
34	1911	Publication	Leinster. Stephen Gwynn. Blackie & Son, London.	'Mollie, with love from Nellie M. Moore, Xmas 1912'
35		Publication	The Vicar of Wakefield. Oliver Goldsmith. The Readers Library, London.	'M.C. Bleazby from her sister, 1925'
36		Publication	Poetry and Drama. Oliver Goldsmith. Thomas Nelson & Sons Ltd., London.	[Presentation plate:] 'CEGGS Fremantle to Molly Bleazby, 1926'
37	1934	Publication	Far From the Madding Crowd. Thomas Hardy. Macmillan, London.	
38	1905	Publication	Life of John Constable. M.S. Henderson. Duckworth & Co., London.	'From E.G. Bleazby, 1921'
39	1892	Publication	Held Fast for England. G.A. Henty. Blackie & Son Ltd., London.	'Mack, Douglas A. Shields, 21 July 1892'
40		Publication	With Wolfe in Canada. G.A. Henty. Blackie & Son Ltd., London.	
41	1915	Publication	The Forest Lovers. Maurice Hewlett. Macmillan & Co., London.	'S. Mack'

42		Publication	Of the Imitation of Christ. Thomas a Kempis. T. Nelson & Sons, London.	'Molly Bleazby, on her confirmation, Dec. 1926, Fremantle'
43	1906	Publication	Diana of the Crossways. George Meredith. Archibald Constable & Co., London.	
44	1926	Publication	The Golden Treasury of the best songs and lyrical poems in the English language. F.T. Palgrave. OUP.	'Molly Bleazby 1929'
45	1949	Publication	Letters to young churches. Trans. J.B. Phillips. Geoffrey Bles, London.	
46		Publication	Autobiography of Henry M. Stanley. Sampson Low, Marston & Co., London.	'Mr and Mrs J. Mack 2 Dec. 1911'
47	1917	Publication	Tiresias and other poems. Alfred, Lord Tennyson. Macmillan, London.	'R.B. Bleazby'
48		Publication	The Poetical Works. Alfred, Lord Tennyson. Collins, London.	[Presentation plate:] 'CEGGS Fremantle, Molly Bleazby, 1926'
49	1923	Publication	The History of Henry Esmond, Esq. W.M. Thackeray. Macmillan Co., London.	'Molly Bleazby'
50		Publication	The Complete Works of William Shakespeare. Griffith Farran Okeden & Welsh, London.	'To A.E. Mack from her mother, 8 April 1892'
51	1909	Publication	Poppea of the Post Office. M.O. Wright. Macmillan. New York.	'J. Mack 1-4-10'
52	1898	Publication	Windsor Magazine. Vol. VIII, June-Nov. 1898. Ward Lock & Co., London.	