

AUSTRALIAN JOINT COPYING PROJECT

SANFORD FAMILY

Papers, 1851-83

Reel M386

**The Rt. Hon. Lord Methuen
Corsham Court
Corsham Wiltshire**

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

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BIOGRAPHICAL NOTES

William Ayshford Sanford (1818-1902) was the son of Edward Sanford and his wife Henrietta (d. 1836) of Nynehead Court, Wellington, Somerset. The Sanford Family had owned Nynehead Court since 1599. William was educated at Eton College and Trinity College, Cambridge. In August 1851 he was appointed Colonial Secretary of Western Australia. He arrived in Perth on the barque *Anna Robertson* in December 1851. As Colonial Secretary, he was the most senior official in the colony under the governor, Captain Charles Fitzgerald. He resigned in July 1855 and returned to England, where he married Sarah Seymour in 1857. On the death of his father in 1871, Sanford inherited the family estates in Somerset and Devon. He was Deputy Lieutenant for Somerset. He took a great interest in the Somerset Archaeological and Natural History Society and was president of the Somerset Agricultural Association. His daughter Mary married Field Marshal Paul Methuen, 3rd Baron Methuen.

Henry Ayshford Sanford (1822-1905), the brother of William Sanford, enlisted in the 43rd Regiment in 1840. He was promoted to the rank of captain in 1850. Having taken leave from the Army, he sailed to Western Australia in the barque *Dido*, arriving in Fremantle in November 1851. In 1853 he was appointed to take charge of the Port Gregory Hiring Station, as well as Sub Collector of Customs and District Registrar of the port. He resigned from the Army in December 1854 in order to pursue his business and farming activities. 'Lynton', his house at Port Gregory, was named after a village in Devon where he had lived. Sanford returned to England in 1857 and in 1859 he married Emily Somerset, the daughter of Lord Granville Somerset. In later years they lived at Waltham House, near Chelmsford, Essex. He was a lieutenant-Colonel in the Royal Buckinghamshire Militia.

SANFORD FAMILY

Note: The papers were filmed from right to left on the reel, with the title page and list appearing at the end of the reel.

1. Letters from William and Henry Sanford to members of their family, 1851-53.

The letters were written to their father Edward Sanford, their grandmother Mary Sanford and their cousin Caroline Sanford. The letters from William, written from Perth, refer to his voyage from England, his first impressions of Perth, Henry's appointment in the Convict Department and his later business activities, the climate, the colony's prospects, the usefulness of convicts as servants, and Captain Charles Fitzgerald, the Governor of Western Australia. The letters from Henry were written from Perth, Toodyay and Fremantle. They refer to his appointment in the Convict Department, the employment of convicts on public works, the climate, his life at Toodyay, mutual friends, and news of gold discoveries in Victoria.

2. Letters from Henry Ashford to William Sanford, December 1851-March 1855

The letters were mostly written from Port Gregory, but include some from Fremantle and Toodyay. They refer to financial matters, Captain Edmund Henderson, the Comptroller General of Convicts, the assignment of convicts, the opposition of old convicts to the arrival of convicts, news from home, ship arrivals and departures at Port Gregory, his business activities, debts, the Geraldine lead mines, stores, the shipment of wool and oil, whaling, a trip to the Abrolhos Islands, and his relations with C. Gregory, William Burges and J. Brockman. Some of the letters are crossed.

3. Letter from Edward Ayshford Sanford, 1851

Edward A. Sanford (Woburn Abbey) to his mother Mary Sanford, 13 Sept. 1851: the departure of his son William Sanford from England, well-equipped with tons of luggage; fears that gold discoveries in New South Wales will be prejudicial to Western Australia; views of Sir Roderick Murchison on likelihood of gold in Western Australia.

4. Letters from members of the Sanford Family to William and Henry Sanford, 1851-54

Letters to William and Henry Sanford from their father Edward A. Sanford (London, Brighton, Nynehead Court), their grandmother Mary Sanford (Lynton Cottage) and their sister Henrietta Sanford (Lynton Cottage, Combe Florey).

5. Letter from A. Fagan, 1854

A. Fagan (Perth) to Henry Sanford, 8 July 1854: thanks for his reference.

6. Letters to William Sanford as Colonial Secretary, 1851-55

Letters from particular persons

Edward B. Tylor to Sanford, n.d.: sends Victorian Government book on prehistoric dingo.

Henry Sanford (London) to Sanford, 6 April 1883: visit to London of Thomas Burges and his wife from Western Australia; meeting with Frederick Barlee.

F.D. Wittenoom to Sanford, n.d.

John W. Sillivant (Bunbury) to Henry Sanford, n.d.: arrival of William Sanford in the colony; seeks a government appointment in the Bunbury district; effects of influx of convicts.

Henry Sanford (Toodyay) to Sanford, 27 Jan. 1852: forwards letter from J.W. Sillivant requesting a government appointment; asks for cases of ale, sherry and claret; approves of Sanford's purchase of Reeve's house. (2 letters)

John W. Sillivant to Clifton, n.d.: requests that vessel call at Bunbury for Mrs Sillivant so she can avoid a journey to Fremantle.

John W. Sillivant (Albany) to Sanford, 9 May 1853: seeks advice on his powers as a magistrate;

Charlotte Sillivant (Fremantle) to Sanford (?), Aug.-Sept. 1853: complains of accommodation on vessel proceeding to Albany. (2 letters)

John W. Sillivant to Sanford, n.d.: financial matters; salary.

John Molloy (Vasse) to Sanford, 1853-55: introduces Parnell and his wife; need for a bridge over the Ludlow River and a fireplace in the cell for prisoners at the Vasse; requests a gaol and warehouse. (4 letters)

William T. Mends to Sanford, 23 Jan. 1852: sends an inventory of goods on the *Champion*.

Richard G. Meares (Auburn) to Sanford, 31 Jan. 1852: welcome to the colony.

Major Frederick C. Irwin to Sanford, 1853: administrative matters. (2 letters)

Captain Edmund Henderson (Fremantle) to Sanford, mostly undated: organisation of Convict Department; employment of Engineers officers; appointments and dismissals; reconviction of convicts; remission for good conduct; plans of convicts to escape. (18 letters)

William H. Harvey (Albany, Melbourne) to Sanford, Jan.-Nov. 1854: visit to the colony; decision to base his tour at Albany; transmission of botanical specimens; stemmed blackboys; state of roads; sends manuscript; exhibition in Melbourne.

John G. Griffith (Fremantle) to Sanford, 20 June 1853: seeks appointment as immigration agent.

W. Cowan (York) to Sanford, 1853-55: difficulties with Aborigines at York; native institution at Mile Pool; need for special police in district; concealed firearms found among ticket of leave men. (5 letters)

Walter Clifton (Mandurah, Australind) to Sanford, Dec. 1852-Feb. 1853: Sanford's visit to Mandurah; need for a bridge; recommends a carpenter; supply of books for school at Bunbury. (5 letters)

W. Pearce Clifton (Leschenault Cottage) to Sanford, 15 Feb. 1853: recommends sending a blacksmith to the district.

W. Pearce Clifton (Leschenault Cottage), 8 Jan. 1855: agrees to cut a spar for beacon at Bunbury; difficulty in obtaining flour.

Anne Butler (Perth) to Sanford, 11 Oct. 1854: refuses to lease a gravel pit.

Thomas Brown (Fremantle) to Sanford, 1 Sept. 1854: litigation.

Captain Charles Fitzgerald (Perth) to Sanford, n.d.: Sanford's unpleasant experience as a cabin passenger; despatch of a vessel to Garden Island; question of appointing officers of the Engineers to command depots; employment of sappers on public works; inexperience of Edmund Du Cane; Peter Warburton. (2 letters)

O'Grady Lefroy (Perth) to Sanford, 25 Sept. 1854: Governor directs that the pond near new school be drained.

Sanford to Eleanora Fitzgerald, 16 Jan. 1852: rules for the Ladies Committee. (draft)

Letters on religious and educational matters

Unsigned paper concerning education, 9 Feb. 1854. (draft)

Rev. James Brown (Fremantle, York) to Sanford, 1853-55: recommends a prisoner Andrew McNulty; management of government schools; building of a church at York. (4 letters)

Rev. T. Barry (Fremantle) to Sanford, 27 March 1855: his parsonage at Fremantle.

Rev. George P. Pownall (York) to Sanford, March-Dec. 1853: building of a house and school; difficulties with J. Smithies, Wesleyan chaplain; Native Institution at York; model farms; York Agricultural Society. (5 letters)

Rev. John R. Wollaston (Albany) to Sanford, 30 Jan. 1855: public thanksgiving for the harvest; possible creation of a See of Western Australia; recommendation of Archdeacon M.B. Hale as Bishop of Perth.

Bishop John Brady (Perth) to Sanford, 19 July 1855: memorial of Roman Catholics of Guildford asking for land and help in building a chapel, priest's house and school.

Sisters of Mercy (Perth) to Sanford, 7 Nov. 1854: recommend petition of Bridget O'Brien.

Letters on medical matters

R.C. Elliot (Carnac Island, Woodman's Point) to Sanford, Dec. 1851: quarantine matters; salary. (2 letters)

J. Ferguson to Sanford, 12 May: certifies he has examined W.H. Jackson.

Francis Spratt (Perth) to Sanford, 9 June 1854: requests rations as he is injured.

J. Horrocks to Sanford, n.d.: invalid in hospital, seeks conveyance to join a vessel at Fremantle.

W. Longdon (Port Gregory) to Sanford, 26 Feb. 1855: states that Henry Sanford will recover in a few hours.

Letters on private matters

Mary Noakes (Sevenoaks) to Sanford, 9 Aug. 1851: congratulates Sanford on his Western Australian appointment.

Ambrose L. Goddard (Swindon) to Sanford, [1851]: prospective emigrants to Western Australia.

E.A. Webber to Sanford, 5 Sept. 1851: prospective emigrants to Western Australia.

James Harding (Fremantle) to Sanford, 2 Jan. 1852: cost of articles purchased for Sanford while he was aboard the *Anna Robertson*.

John Harris (Fremantle) to Sanford, 2 Jan. 1852: goods on *Anna Robertson*, the property of Sanford.

F.N. Armstrong (Fremantle) to Sanford, 28 July 1854: collecting of birds.

W. Varley to Sanford, 7 Jan. 1852: declines dinner invitation.

Charles Evans to Sanford, n.d.: declines dinner invitation.

H.A. Carlhunt (?) to Sanford, n.d.: £5000 from settlement trust fund of P.R. Bouverie invested in Sanford's name in a railway debenture.

W.H.P. Brown (Fremantle) to Sanford, June 1853: purchase of his house in Perth by Sanford. (2 letters)

Richard McB. Broun (Fremantle) to Sanford, 1852-55: property transactions; inspection of vessels; customs matters; payment of duties; transfer of stores to Commissariat; plans for a church at Fremantle; appointment of a Shipping Master. (12 letters)

7. Accounts

Freight and carriage, 1852, 1854

Household and personal accounts, 1854-55, including account for rent, account for fishing tackle, a dog licence, an account for books, subscriptions, accounts for ale and cider, accounts for garden and building materials, accounts for clothes washing, general stores, grocer, milk, butcher, herding. The general stores are arranged alphabetically by name of the retailer.

Official accounts, 1854-55, including a tender for sheoak shingles for the Commissariat Stores and Military Barracks, a tender for timber and an account for flour.