

AUSTRALIAN JOINT COPYING PROJECT

HEATHFIELD STEPHENSON

Papers and publications, 1861-90

Reel M855

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BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE

Heathfield Harman Stephenson (1833-1896), the son of a surgeon, was born at Esher, Surrey. He became a professional cricketer at an early age and made his debut for Surrey in a match against Kent at The Oval in 1853. His first-class career lasted until 1871 and in that time he made 7360 runs, took 303 wickets and 152 catches, and made 25 stumpings. In 1861 he became the first bowler to be awarded a hat for taking three wickets with consecutive balls, which led to the term 'hat-trick'. He was playing for an All-England team at Sheffield and, on account of his feat, a collection was taken up and he was presented with a cap or hat bought with the proceeds.

In 1859 Stephenson was a member of the All-England team led by George Parr that visited North America, the first cricket team to play overseas. Two years later, Stephenson led the first English team, made up of professional cricketers, to tour Australia. Arriving in December 1861, the All-England Eleven played twelve matches, usually against teams of 18 or 22 players. The first and last matches of the tour were in Melbourne and they also played in Sydney, Bathurst, Ballarat, Bendigo, Castlemaine, Beechworth, Geelong and Hobart. The tour was a great success and made a large profit for the players and tour promoters.

After his retirement, Stephenson lived at Uppingham in Rutland and was the cricket coach at Uppingham School. He was an occasional umpire of first-class matches, including the test match between England and Australia at The Oval in September 1880.

Harman S. Healy, the owner of this collection, was the grandson of Heathfield Stephenson.

Reference: David Frith. *The trailblazers: the first English cricket tour of Australia 1861-62*, Southlands, Cheshire, Boundary Books, 1999.

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Memorandum of agreement between Phelix William Spiers and Christopher Pond of Melbourne and Heathfield Harman Stephenson and eleven others of London concerning a cricket tour of Australia, 21 September 1861. (6pp)

Photograph of the first English team of cricketers arriving outside the Café de Paris, Melbourne, 24 December 1861.

Address presented to the All England Eleven by members of the Queenscliff Cricket Club on their arrival at Port Phillip Heads on 24 December 1861.

Address presented to the All England Eleven by the Melbourne Cricket Club, 25 March 1862.

Address presented to H.H. Stephenson and the All England Eleven by representatives of the cricketers of the Castlemaine district, n.d.

The Cabinet; a repository of facts, figures and fancies relating to the voyage of the 'Great Britain' S.S. from Liverpool to Melbourne, with the Eleven of All England and other distinguished passengers, Melbourne, J. Reid, 1862. (46pp)

J.C. Brodie, ed. *The Victorian cricketer's guide for 1860-61*, Melbourne, Sands, Kenny & Co., 1861. (113pp) Inscribed by J.C. Brodie to H.H. Stephenson.

George Brumfitt and Joseph Kirby. *England v. Australia at the wicket: accounts of the tours of every English team in Australia and Australian team in England, with full scores of all the eleven-a-side matches and averages of all the principal players*, Ilkley, Yorkshire, Brumfitt & Kirby, [1887]. (293pp)

H.H. Montgomery and C.W. Alcock. *Old cricket and cricketers*, London, H. Stacey Gold, [1890]. (77pp) Signed by H.H. Stephenson.