

AUSTRALIAN JOINT COPYING PROJECT

MARGARET CATCHPOLE

Papers, 1845-1965

Reel M944

**Central Library
Northgate Street
Ipswich Suffolk IP1 3DE**

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BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE

Margaret Catchpole (1772-1819) was born in Suffolk, the illegitimate daughter of Elizabeth Catchpole and a farm labourer. She spent her early life on farms and had little education. She worked as a servant for families and was a nurse and under-cook in the household of John Cobbold, an Ipswich brewer. She learnt to read and write while living with the Cobbolds.

In 1797, after being unemployed for several months, Catchpole stole the coach gelding of John Cobbold and rode to London. She was caught and sentenced to death at the Suffolk Assizes. The sentence was commuted to transportation for seven years. In March 1800 she escaped from Ipswich Gaol, but she was again caught and sentenced to death. The sentence was subsequently commuted to transportation for life and she was sent to New South Wales on the *Nile* in 1801.

Catchpole worked for the commissary, John Palmer, for eighteen months and subsequently worked for a succession of families, including the Faithfuls and Rouses. She was well regarded by her employers and was left alone by the Rouses as the overseer of their property at Richmond. She was pardoned in 1814, but did not return to England. She remained at Richmond, managing a small store and acting as a midwife and nurse. Her letters to the Cobbolds and others in England are one of the finest sources on life in Sydney at the beginning of the nineteenth century. They formed the basis of the biography by Richard Cobbold, the son of John Cobbold, which in turn was the source for many stories, plays and books.

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Glyde Collection

Newspaper cuttings relating to Margaret Catchpole and Rev. Richard Cobbold (Wortham), 1845-61. The cuttings appear to have mostly been taken from the *Suffolk Chronicle*. Richard Cobbold (1797-1877) was the author of *The history of Margaret Catchpole: a Suffolk girl* (1845).

Woolnough Collection.

Frank Woolnough (1845-1930) was the curator of the Ipswich Museum from 1893 to 1920.

Volume 135 Margaret Catchpole

Hobson Bocock (?) (Mablethorpe, Lincolnshire) to [Frank Woolnough], 4 March 1909.

G.C. Johnson (Sydney) to Frank Woolnough, 1 July 1912.

Newspaper cuttings about Margaret Catchpole.

Newspaper cuttings about Laurence Irving and the costume drama 'Margaret Catchpole', c. 1910.

Poster offering a reward for the capture of Margaret Catchpole, who escaped from the County Gaol, Ipswich.

Photographs of Cliff House, the Old Priory Farm and the Old Manor House, Ipswich.

Photograph of an emu sent home by Margaret Catchpole and displayed in the Ipswich Museum.

Photograph of alleged portrait of Margaret Catchpole.

Newspaper cuttings on Margaret Catchpole, 1910-13.

Volume 136 Margaret Catchpole

George Hunt (Orford) to Frank Woolnough, 17 May 1908.

George Hunt (Orford) to Frank Woolnough, 9 May 1908.

George Hunt (Orford) to Frank Woolnough, 11 May 1908.

John Booth (London) to Frank Woolnough, 3 May 1911.

Gregory Mathews (Watford) to [Frank Woolnough], n.d.

M.L. Emden (?) to Frank Woolnough, 26 May 1911.

Arthur Sherington (London) to Frank Woolnough, 10 June 1922.

A. George Foster (Sydney) to Arthur Sherington, 1 Feb. 1922.

Play list of the costume drama by Walter Frith, 'Margaret Catchpole', Ipswich Lyceum, Oct. 1910.

Reviews of Laurence Irving in the play 'Margaret Catchpole',

Photographs of Laurence Irving and Mabel Hackney.

Obituaries of Laurence Irving and Mabel Hackney, 1914.

FS 98. Letters, newspaper cuttings etc. relating to Margaret Catchpole

Extracts from the *Ipswich Journal*, 29 March-5 April 1800. (typescript copies)

Letter to Rev. Richard Cobbold, n.d. (newspaper cutting)

K.C. Hinckson (London) to Frank Woolnough, 4 July 1910: Laurence Irving requests a photograph of a portrait of Margaret Catchpole.

Photograph of Laurence Irving.

Laurence Irving. Introduction to Walter Frith, *Margaret Catchpole*.

Amy Astbury. St Margaret's Manor House, Ipswich, and Margaret Catchpole, *The Country Home*, n.d.

Gregory Mathews (Watford) to [Frank Woolnough], 15 Oct. 1913.

Stanley Best (Richmond, NSW) to H.B. Matthews, 6 Nov. 1913.

Gregory Mathews (Watford) to [Frank Woolnough], 15 Nov. 1913.

Gregory Mathews (Watford) to [Frank Woolnough], 30 Dec. 1913.

Hugh Wright (Mitchell Library, Sydney) to J. Leigh Jones, 8 Dec. 1914.

J. Leigh Jones (London) to Frank Woolnough, 30 April 1915.

J. Leigh Jones (Sydney) to Frank Woolnough, 16 Oct. 1915.

Local pamphlets. L92. Margaret Catchpole

F.J. Foakes-Jackson. *St Luke and a modern writer: a study in criticism* (Cambridge, 1916)

J. Leigh Jones (Sydney) to Mayor of Ipswich, 27 May 1917.

A. George Foster (Sydney) to Frank Woolnough, 17 July 1917.

A. George Foster (Sydney) to Frank Woolnough, 3 Aug. 1917.

J. Leigh Jones (Sydney) to Frank Woolnough, 9 Oct. 1917.

J. Leigh Jones. Notes from the Mitchell Library, Sydney.

Letter to J. Leigh Jones (Sydney), n.d.

Hugh Wright (Mitchell Library, Sydney) to Frank Woolnough, 21 May 1918: sends copies of letters of Catchpole.

Margaret Catchpole to her uncle William Howes, 2 May 1803.

Margaret Catchpole to William Howes, 8 Oct. 1806. (typescript copy)

Margaret Catchpole to William Howes, 28 Jan. 1807. (typescript copy)

Margaret Catchpole (Richmond, NSW) to William Howes, 2 Sept. 1811. (typescript copy)

Newspaper cuttings about Margaret Catchpole, 1931-65.

Note on a reference to Catchpole in George Caley. *Reflections on the colony of New South Wales*, edited by J.E.B. Currey, 1967. (typescript, 1p.)