

Deposited ?1950s

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## ALEXANDER McGREGOR

### MERCHANT AND SHIPOWNER

Alexander McGregor (1821-1896), shipowner and merchant, and John Gibson McGregor (1830-1902) arrived in Tasmania from Scotland with their parents, James and Janet McGregor. The brothers served apprenticeships under a shipwright, John Watson, and then started building boats. Alexander acquired the Domain Shipyard in 1855 with his brother John as foreman, but sold out to his brother in 1869. John continued to run the shipyard until he retired in 1890 and built many ships well known in inter-colonial trade, including "Petrel", "Helen", "Hally Bayley", "Loongana", Derwent Hunter and the "Harriet McGregor". John married Christina Stewart (1841-1903) and they had six children including Albert J., who worked as book keeper for his uncle Alexander for a time, Alexander (1870-1946), two girls (Amy Florence Isabel (1867-1944) and Ethel May) and two children who died in infancy (James and Neva Evelkine).

Alexander McGregor started the firm of McGregor, Piesse & Co., general merchants of Elizabeth Street, Hobart, with Charles A. Piesse. They bought ships for exporting whale oil, blue gum, timber and wool, known as the "Red Iron" fleet, and they had a warehouse in Salamanca Place. The partnership was dissolved in 1886, possibly because the firm was getting into debt through McGregor's speculating in land and mine ventures. In his last years Alexander McGregor speculated unwisely in various property and mine share deals and was involved in a number of legal actions. Alexander McGregor was a member of the Legislative Council 1880 - 1896.

In 1847 McGregor married Harriet Bayley (1829-1878), who gave her name to two of his ships, the "Hally Bayley" and the "Harriet McGregor". Harriet McGregor died in 1878 and Alexander married Margaret Pigdon about 1884. He had a house, Lenna, in Battery Point and other property.

Most of these papers relate to the dissolution of the partnership and Alexander McGregor's independent business ventures, the execution of estates of which he was trustee and the execution of his estate after his death by his second wife Margaret (nee Pigdon) and her agent Thomas Bennison who she later married.

(See also *Australian Dictionary of Biography* vol.5)

## MCGREGOR &amp; PIESSE &amp; Co

M1/

- 1 Dissolution of partnership 1886 - 1887  
Correspondence between A. McGregor and C.A. Piesse on outstanding business and debts after their partnership had been dissolved. (See also Lawyers' accounts)  
(letters and pressed copies in folder)
- 2 Bank cheques 1874 - 1887  
Cheques drawn by McGregor & Piesse.  
(bundle)
- 3 Miscellaneous business papers  
Thomas Fennell mortgage (1881); J.G.W. Moir redemption of mortgage 1879-84; Wood Banks property: papers relating to bill of sale from William Brock to McGregor & Piesse including inventories of machinery, furniture and horses and estimate of value (1883); mortgage loan to Gill Ball: bill of sale (1884).  
(12 docs)
- 4 C. A. Piesse: miscellaneous papers 1876, 1883, 1885  
Receipt for deeds from C. Piesse as agent for Edward Ellis from solicitors (Apr. 1876); letters from E.A. Hanson about Young's hops (Apr. 1883) and James Smith's estate (Jan. 1885).  
(4 docs)

## SHIPPING

- 5 Whaling barque "Derwent Hunter" 1871 - 1881  
Will of John Bull, chief mate of the whaling barque "Derwent Hunter", Charles Bayley owner appointed executor (1871); papers relating to claim from NSW Govt. for refund of expenses paid on behalf of John Doherty, a seaman who was injured while serving on the "Derwent Hunter" and left ashore on Lord Howe Island to recuperate, including extract from log book (Capt. Richard Sparkes) and letter from Richard R. Armstrong, Commander RN. retired, Magistrate Lord Howe Island (1879-81).  
(1 paper, 1 ble)
- 6 Barque "Harriet McGregor" 1882 - 1892  
Apprentice G.T.E. Allsopp receipts for wages from Capt. A.S. Leslie (1882-4); Lloyd's register certificate class A1 (May 1884, noted as launched 1871, sheathed with yellow metal on felt May 1884); papers relating to accidental killing of dockman when the "Harriet McGregor", Captain Evans, docked at London docks in May 1892.  
(loose papers in folder)
- 7 Shipping agreement 21 Aug. 1884  
Memorandum of agreement between W. Crosby & Co., Macfarlane Bros. & Co. and McGregor Piesse & Co. to divide equally profits and

commissions on loading of ships in direct trade between Hobart & London.

(1 doc.)

M1/

8 Shipping consignments 1883 - 1893

Consignment notes, invoices, bills of lading for goods shipped, through G.J. McCaul & Co. London, including Meteor tricycle, sewing machines, wicker goods, fishing tackle, Portland cement.

(loose papers in folder)

9 Barque "Lufra" 1892 - 1893

Papers relating to the barque "Lufra" (built in Aberdeen 1870), including: mortgage by David Storm of Aberdeen 1870-74); sale of four sixtyfourth shares from A.G. Webster to A. McGregor for £94 (30 July 1892), insurance on barque for A.G. Webster (1892), accounts of barque Lufra (Captain L.A. Rogers) in account with Alex McGregor for docking, stevedoring, stores, customs etc (1892-3) and memo of freight for owners meeting.

(5 docs.)

10 Barque "Helen" refit 1893, 1894

Survey report laid up on Domain slip since 1891, now fitted as whaler 15 May 1894). Also letter from McGregor to Messrs. Dalgleish & Taylor, Patent Slip, Domain: Mr Dalgleish not to work on "Helen" after walking off the job (pressed copy 30 Nov. 1893).

(2 papers)

11 Ambergris ND [?1875-85]

Instructions to captains to watch for ambergris when killing sperm whales.

(2 papers)

12 Portland cement tests 1890

Reports of tests on cement shipped by "Lufra" to Melbourne in 1889 and letter from Portland Cement Co. London to G.J. McCaul, London, about methods of testing.

(loose docs. in folder)

13 Depth of water at New Wharf Extension 1892

Table of soundings.

(1 doc. on tracing paper)

14 Rail freight charges for goods shipped from London 3 - 5 June 1893

Letters from the Minister for Railways concerning McGregor's request for reduced rail freight charges on goods shipped from London by Shaw-Saville and New Zealand Shipping Co's steamers.

(3 docs)

## BUSINESS VENTURES ALEX MCGREGOR &amp; CO

M1/

15

Lawyers' accounts 1886 - 1895

Detailed accounts for legal work by solicitors Dobson, Mitchell & Allport, including: dissolution of partnership and settlement with C.A. Piesse and with debtors; raising of mortgages on property; Union Bank's threat of bankruptcy proceedings against McGregor; VDL Bank; loans; inquiry into property and settlement of late Mrs Harriet McGregor; settlement on Mrs Margaret McGregor (1888); petition to Marine Board about new pier; claim of Albert J. McGregor for wrongful dismissal (1886-88); dispute with J.G. McGregor over ship Loongana and case in Admiralty court for recovery of part earnings and sale (1889); recovery of debts; Lucas estate (1889); T.S. Brown liquidation; Battery Point land; dispute with Prebyterian Church over blocking windows (1892); etc. (15 ocs.)

16

Account ledger Sept. 1893 - Aug. 1895

Ledger balances, profit & loss account, trial balances, including ships' expenses and cargos, captains, Anchor Tin Mining and other ventures. (folio acct. book, half bound leather)

17

VDL. Bank shares 1883, 1890-1893

Papers relating to shares in the Bank of Van Diemen's Land and settlement in liquidation. (loose papers in folder)

18

Glenorchy water supply specification for pipes 1892

Advertisement and specifications for tenders for supply of iron pipes (1 doc)

19

Property, share &amp; mortgage business 1886-1895, 1904

Papers relating to miscellaneous property and mortgage business, including: Timaru, New Zealand, small property: letters concerning title to and attempts to sell (1886-1904); Oatlands Hotel: notice to quit from Cascade Brewery (1887) and lease to Joseph Law (1890); St. Peters Pass Estate: letters from M. Bewsher about purchase of hay (1889); 56 Hampden Road: lease to Emma Louisa Clark (1890); "Ceres" sheep run, Parattah: 4 months pasturage to John Wilson (1890); Renison Bell Silver Mining Co.: invitation to A.McG. to be one of the provisional directors (1891); 106 Macquarie Street: John Deans agreement to take it on rent for one year for £120 pa; (1891), lease to Mrs Helen Leath (Apr. 1894; Lord Rodney Hotel, New Wharf: draft lease and transfer of licence to Catherine & Hyam Simmons (Jan.1893) and lease for three years to Joseph Aaron Phillips (July 1893); Ellenthorpe Estate mortgage (1893-5); creditors of John and Louisa Webster agreement (1894); creditors of Young Lewis, dairyman: agreement over payment (Jan. 1895); store on New Wharf: agreement to let ground and first floor to F. Bond for 6 months (Feb. 1895); house and premises on New Wharf Esplanade: lease for one month to William Honey (March 1895), miscellaneous circulars, insurance receipts, share receipts (including Renison Bell Mine), bank orders etc.

(loose docs. in folder)

M1/

20

Anchor Tin Mining Co. 1894 - 1895

Correspondence and statement of accounts relating to the Anchor Tin Mine.

(loose papers in folder)

21

Retirement Feb., June 1895

Letters of dismissal to office staff as reducing staff (Feb. 1895); letters to London agents, Staley & Radford and Gilbert McCaul announcing his intention to retire on 1 September 1895 (June 1895)

(5 pressed copies of letters)

## TRUSTEE

22

James McGregor 1874 - 1889

James McGregor (d. 1883), brother of Alex: accounts and papers relating to Alex Mcg's purchase of a cottage in Battery Point (1874) and execution of J.McG's estate by A.McG. (1883-1889), including solicitors' accounts, receipts from J.McG's children (Amy L (Mrs E.B. Shepley), Janet (Mrs J.J. Matthews), Elizabeth P (Mrs E.K. Pigdon) and A.J. McGregor), and notes about dispute with A.J.McG., who was left an orphan and entered A.McG's office.

(loose papers in folder)

23

Capt. Edward Lucas 1879 - 1894

Execution of the estate of Capt. Edward Lucas, senior captain of the T.S.N.Co. who died on 14 July 1879 aged 54, Alex McGregor and F.J. Salier executors and trustees, widow Matilda and daughter Matilda Elizabeth Salier legatees: accounts and correspondence.

(loose papers in folder)

24

George Wilson 1882 - 1896

Execution of the estate of George Wilson JP of Hobart, who died on 29 April 1882 aged 81, including: executors' accounts, inventory of estate receipts, bank books, mine share certificates, papers relating to property rent, insurance and repairs, receipts for rates and taxes, correspondence with solicitors and others, receipts from Mrs S. George Edwards of San Francisco for legacy payments, correspondence with P.J. Wilson of Melbourne relating to A.McG. giving up the trusteeship.

(arranged in 8 sections in folder)

25

Douglas/Bayley 1887

Letter from W. Dawson, Essendon, Vic.: hopes to get some of money left by "dear old friend Charley Bayley" for Douglas family; also personal news of his family and hopes that A.McG's wife was progressing and that A.McG's worries over Piesse's "galling conduct" at an end. Enclosed letter from William Watson to Dawson about division of money between Mr & Mrs Douglas, Douglas, Watson - pleased to have as son's trustees McGregor, Piesse and Dawson.

(2 docs)

- M1/  
26      Capt. Archibald Milne 1894  
           Copy of letter about the family of the late Captain Archibald Milne (d. c 1852) from D. Macmillan, who as a child lived next door to Milne in Hampden Road.  
           (1 doc)
- MCGREGOR: PERSONAL & MLC
- 27      House building alteration agreement 3 Nov. 1882  
           Agreement with William Duncan and John Crow, master masons for erection of additions to residence of A. McGregor at Battery Point.  
           (1 doc)
- 28      Railways - W. R. Deeble 1892  
           Draft submission of W.R. Deeble against his summary transfer from the position of Assistant Locomotive Superintendent to Foreman of Fitters and Turners.  
           (1 doc.)
- 29      W. G. Gibson and A. McGregor 6 - 15 Dec. 1893  
           Correspondence relating to a quarrel: A.McG. accepted W.G.G.'s apologies for "your cowardly action. The injury . . . might have been more serious" and £25 donation to the Benevolent Fund.  
           (3 letters, 2 pressed copies of replies)
- 30      Equity Case 3 June 1896  
           Memorial of case in Supreme Court in Equity between F.J. Pike and J.W. Robinson, plaintiffs, and A. McGregor, Margaret his wife and the Union Bank, defendants, over property in Battery Point etc.  
           (1 doc)

#### EXECUTION OF A. MCGREGOR'S ESTATE

- 31      Execution of Alex. McGregor's Estate 1896 - 1898  
           Papers relating to the settlement of the estate after the death of A. McGregor on 4 August 1896, leaving his widow Margaret main legatee and sole executrix, although Thomas Bennison, who she later married, acted as her agent, including notes on the settlement on marriage to Margaret Pigdon 1884 and later settlements, list of property (including Lenna, Battery Point, houses in Hampden Road, Macquarie St, Bathurst St, New Wharf warehouse, Lord Rodney hotel, and ships (Harriet McGregor, Helen, Asia, Waterwitch, Loongana, Lufra, Derwent Hunter), solicitors' accounts, balance statements, earlier accounts and documents relating, bills etc. See also M1/16 - Timaru New Zealand property (1904).  
           (loose papers in folder)
- 32      Bank book Mrs Margaret Bennison 1913 - 1914  
           Bank of Victoria Ltd, Melbourne.  
           (booklet)