

Deposited by Miss E. Cato 1967

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## JOHN WILSON & SONS BOATBUILDERS, CYGNET

John Wilson (1842-1912), ship-wright, served an apprenticeship with Colin Walker, boat builder of Gardners Bay, who built the Huon Belle in 1866. Wilson established his own boat building yard at Martins Point where his first ship "Good Intent" was built in 1877. John Wilson and his sons, Walter and Sydney built many well known sailing ketches and schooners and some steam and oil engine powered vessels, including the ketch One and All for Andrewartha in 1878, Leilateah (McDougall's 1891), Birngana (1893), Lenna (1903 Risby's), Lottah, Stanley and the Alice (1904), Doris and Rooganah (100 ton 3 masted schooner) for Jones & Co. The last ship built by John Wilson was the ketch Lialeeta for T.H. Spaulding launched in 1913. After his death in 1912 the business was carried on by two sons Walter William and Sydney. Their ships included Leeta May, Melba, Westward, Utiekah III (for I. E. Giles 1923-4), Huon Chief (1937), Jean Nichols (1940), Derwent Hunter (1943-6 for A.J. Drysdale) and Sir John Franklin ordered by Jones & Co. but taken over by the Navy in 1943 and sunk in New Guinea waters. Other famous vessels, such as the May Queen (built 1867, repaired and altered by Wilson 1899) passed through the Yard for repairs and alterations.

John Wilson and his wife, Dinah, had 4 sons and 3 daughters and lived at "Brightside", Cygnet. He was known as a wit and composed humorous verse, as did son younger members of the family. Walter Wilson was a designer and artist. He and his wife had several children, including Clifton, who assisted the boat building.

### JOHN WILSON

W6/

- 1 Correspondence, bills, etc 1898-9, 1904,1909  
(5 papers)
- 2 Time, Wages & Costing book 1899 - 1901  
Notes of man hours spent, wages, costs, and some specifications for various vessels, including Evening Star, steam ketches Lottah and Nubeena, May Queen, Thistle, Victoria Louise, SS.Ronnie.
- 3 Specifications 1906-1911  
Specifications for "Stanley" for Richard Leggett of Stanley 1906; "Rooganah" a ketch for H. Jones & Co. and Captain Heather (carvel built, length 85 ft. beam 25', bird figure head, completed 1909) December 1907; "Alcairo", auxiliary oil ketch for George Dunn Bennett of Geeveston 1910-11.

## WALTER WILSON

- W6/  
6-12 Letter Books 1917 - 1941  
Copies or drafts of letters sent relating to ship building, orders, supplies, including some details of labour, timber etc. for specified vessels and miscellaneous notes.
- 6 General inquiries etc. 1917-1936  
7 "Melba", letters and some time and labour details 1919-1921  
8 "Eva Leeta" for T.H. Spaulding - letters 1921-1923  
9 "Utieka" for I.E. Giles - letters 1923-1924  
10 "Huon Chief" and "Anita" letters 1937-1939  
also some measurements and time & labour accounts  
11 "Jean Nichols" for W. Nichols, Stanley letters etc. 1940  
Also miscellaneous notes  
12 "Sir John Franklin" letters and notes 1940-1941
- 13 Correspondence 1940 -1943  
Correspondence received and miscellaneous papers including delivery notes, notes of timber etc., tax returns, employment of Clifton and Carlyle Wilson and Mervyn Cato deferring their call up for military service.  
(folder)
- 14-24 Work Diaries & Notebooks 1917 - 1949  
Notebooks noting time, labour, materials, miscellaneous notes, sometimes costing, some draft letters, etc. (most in old school exercise books)
- 14 "Leeta May" (T.H. Spaulding), "Stanley", "Westward 1917-1924  
15 "Marina" renamed "Miena" (Jones & Boxall), "Alice"renamed Kintail 1933-5  
16 "Alice M" ("Kintail"), "Iolanthe", Gladys S"  
17 "Iolanthe" (R. Hickman) and repair of "Ventura"  
Including costing details  
18 "Mistral III" (G. Rex), "Jean Nichols" (W. Nichols) c 1940  
Including costing details  
19 "Jean Nichols" c 1940  
20 "Sir John Franklin" & other vessels 1941-1945  
"Sir John Franklin was built for Jones & Co. but taken over by Navy.  
Also letters and notes on other vessels for Rex, Drysdale, Maclean etc.  
21 "Derwent Hunter" (A.J. Drysdale) 1943-1945  
22 Proposed vessel for A.J. Drysdale (not buuilt) 1946, 1949  
Includes cost and correspondence  
23 Rough notebook of measurements ND  
Possibly for "Sir John Franklin"  
24 Notes of weights and measures, displacement, ballast, sail area.
- 25 Specifications ND.  
Miscellaneous specifications for boats for Royal Prince Alfred Yacht Club and 2 other vessels unnamed.
- 26 List of ships built 1866-1943  
List of ships built and for whom, from Huon Belle built in 1866by Colin Walker for whom John Wilson worked, Good Intent the first ship built by John Wilson at Martins Point in 1877, One and All ketch built for Andrewartha in 1878, Birngana, Lottah, Ronnie, Rooganah etc. to Derwent Hunter built for A.J. Drysdale 1843.

## PHOTOGRAPHS, CUTTINGS ETC.

W.6/  
27Sketches q 1894

Pencil sketches ?by Walter Wilson: "Lottah" on slips 1894; "His Holiness the Popes's armed screw yacht 'Immaculate Conception' (3 masted sailing vessel with funnel) 1894"; flower drawing.

28

Photographs

Stanley (2 masted ketch) (print &amp; glass neg.)

Rooganah at sea 1909

Postcard with birthday greetings to "Brightie" from Mother.

29

Launching of "Marina" 1934

Launching of the Marina ketch for H. Jones for the timber trade, press cuttings.

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Family Photograph &amp; Cutting Album (neg. microfilm only)

Includes photographs of John Wilson and family (including wife Dinah, daughter Brightie (Mrs W.T. Harris), John Wilson with a keel; son Walter Wilson's family (Elsie, Ruby, Frank, Clifton, Tasman), walter in dinghy, Sydney Wilson. Also boats: Utieka III (materials cost 662, wages £978), Laleeta, Alcairo 1911, Jean Nichols being built and sailing 1923-4, Marina, Eva Leeta, ketch Stanley 1910, Lialeeta (1913 John w's last boat), Rooganah (100 tons 3 masted 1909), Good Intent built 1877, Leeta May 1919, Good Templar part built on slips 1874, Derwent Hunter 1946, Lenna, Sir John Franklin on slips 1943 and built (taken over by Government for service in New Guinea and sunk on reef), Alice M 1904, Doris 1906, SS Dover on slips 1908, Mistral III, Huon Chief repaired.

Also news cuttings about boats, including Huon Chief (Derwent Hunter), the Yard, obituaries of John Wilson, Walter Wilson etc. and sympathy cards; poems by several members of family; copy of specifications for oil engined boat for Jones & Co. 1907.

(35 mm negative film taken for University Library 1967)

31

Notes on boats, Wilson yard, Wilson family ND

Including notes about boats and the Wilson shipyard and quotations of poems by John Wilson "master builder and wit"

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Leslie Norman correspondence 193~~7~~<sup>7</sup>, 1949

Correspondence from Leslie Norman to Council Clerk, Cygnet, about John & Walter Wilson for inclusion in his book, *Pioneer Shipping of Tasmania and Haunts of the Blue Whale* (1937)

Memo to Walter Wilson 20/12/49 re "Haunts of the Blue Whale."