

Acquired : Original deposited with UTas archives for safe custody and on indefinite loan by Max F Sorell, 10 Dec. 1974.

It was withdrawn by depositor in 1991. Photocopy only now held.

Access : Available for research.

WILLIAM SORELL'S JOURNAL, 1823 – 1825.

William Sorell (1800 – 1860) was the eldest son of William Sorell (1775 – 1848), who served as Lt. Governor of Van Diemen's Land from 1816 until May 1824, and Louisa Matilda (Cox), who was separated from her husband in 1807 and remained in England with their seven children. Young Sorell arrived in Hobart to see his father on 27 December 1823 and then stayed at Government House until his father's departure in May 1824. Shortly afterwards Sorell, with his friend William Fletcher, leased a house in New Town. In 1825 Sorell met Elizabeth Julia Kemp (daughter of Anthony Fenn Kemp) whom he married in September 1825 at St David's Cathedral.

In his journal Sorell made brief daily entries of his voyage out, his reception at Government House, the arrival of Lt. Governor Arthur, his new post as Registrar of the Supreme Court. The entries are brief but of particular interest are his references to the arrival of ships and his meeting officers and other people of note landing at Hobart. He makes occasional references to his work and cases in court and to Judge Pedder and his wife. Apart from his work Sorell's chief activities, as noted, were riding, walking, reading and dining with friends and officers of the Barracks and Convict Department. He attended church regularly on Sunday and mentions the arrival of an organ subscribed for by the inhabitants (13, 14 April 1825). He took occasional shooting trips, mainly to the Coal River (Richmond). Most of the entries are, however, brief and lacking in detail or descriptive accounts as may be illustrated by his

reference to a proposal to transfer the capital to Brighton : 'Meeting at Government House. Removal to Brighton in a large Meeting. I attended. I think the Lt. Governor has made up his mind upon the removal.' (19 May 1825).

- S 17/1 1 volume, narrow folio, ¼ bound leather & paper boards
(withdrawn from collection 1991)
- S 17/2 Transcript of diary made by L Rodda and PS King, typescript, Xerox
copy only, 83pp.).
- S 17/3 Typed name index to diary to diary – on catalogue cards (made by
L Rodda).