

Bequeathed by Miss Mabel Hookey of Rokeby, 1953

KNOPWOOD DIARIES

Rev. Robert Knopwood (1763-1838) kept a fairly detailed and lively diary most of his life. According to Miss Mabel Hookey (1871-1953) some of the diaries were purchased at the sale of Knopwood's effects by her grandfather George Stokell (? d. 1874 aged 86) of Rokeby House, Rokeby. These covered the years 1801 - 1804, 1805 - 1808, 1814 - 1820, 1822 - 1834 and 1836 - 1838. They passed to Stokell's daughter, Henrietta, who gave the first volume (1801-1804) to her brother George whose daughter Alice sold it to the Mitchell Library. The others were given to Mabel Hookey who kept the second volume (1805-1808) but sold the other three volumes to Angus & Robertson, who re-sold them to the Mitchell Library. The Royal Society of Tasmania had microfilm copies made of the diaries in the Mitchell Library of Knopwood's life in Tasmania (from 7 Feb. 1804) and the diary owned by Miss Hookey (see RS.15.) Miss Hookey later bequeathed the diary in her possession (1805-1808) to the Royal Society.

A transcript of this diary (1805-1808) made by W.H. Hudspeth, was published in Papers & Proceedings of the Roy. Soc. of Tas., 1946 & 1947.

See also M. Hookey, Bobby Knopwood in his times, Hobart (Fuller) 1929, and The Chaplain, being some further account of the days of Bobby Knopwood, Hobart (Fuller's Book Shop) [1970]

Diary of Rev. Robert Knopwood 1 Jan. 1805 - 17 Jul. 1808

The diary is headed 'Revd. Robert Knopwood, Chaplain, Hobart Town, Derwent River, Van Diemens Land'. It begins on Tuesday 1 January 1805, noting 'a general muster of all the prisoners in the colony it being New Years Day'. It is written in a neat hand, some words being abbreviated. Knopwood notes, for example, dining with the Governor and others, visiting the Government Farm, kangaroo shooting, fishing, the shortage of provisions in the colony, the weather, the arrival and departure of ships, occasionally christenings, etc. etc. Some pages have been cut out leaving only the date (probably by R.K.)

(folio volume, bound vellum)

RS.12

RS 12

The diary of the Reverend Robert Knopwood, 1803-1838 :
First chaplain of Van Diemen's Land / edited by
Mary Nicholls.

Published by Tasmanian Historical Research
Association, 1977.

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