

Family History

Colonial Secretary's Correspondence Letters received re Moreton Bay

Colonial Secretary's Correspondence is the communication between the NSW government and the newly established Queensland colony. It outlines the establishment of the colony of Queensland from its inception to separation. These documents were filmed especially for State Library of Queensland from the Archives Office and State Library of NSW during the 1960s to collate primary source records of pre-separation Moreton Bay.

Users are advised that First Nations material in this collection may contain culturally sensitive content that may not normally be used in certain public or community contexts as it can be considered inappropriate today. This material may also contain names of deceased persons.

Digitised collections

State Library has digitised the *Colonial Secretary's letters received relating to Moreton Bay and Queensland 1822-1860* from the microfilm collection. State Library staff and volunteers are identifying individual letters in the collection and progressively making them available through the library catalogue – for the latest content see our Collection Guide to the correspondence.

Access points to the Correspondence

<https://www.slq.qld.gov.au/collections/queensland/colonial-secretarys-letters-received-relating-moreton-bay-and-queensland>

- Online Collection Guide – Colonial Secretary's papers 1822-1877
[NOTE: Series number = Reel number] <https://collections.slq.qld.gov.au/guide/33054/details>
- *Letters received re Moreton Bay* (MFA 994.32 19-)
The lists of documents in 2 bound volumes - not always accurate, complete or in an easily searched order.
- *The Pre-Separation population index of Moreton Bay Region 1824-1859* (fiche) also known as the *Queensland early pioneers index 1824-1859* (CD-ROM). Name index only.
- Online PDF index
<https://www.slq.qld.gov.au/collections/queensland/colonial-secretarys-letters-received-relating-moreton-bay-and-queensland/indexes-colonial-secretary-correspondence-collection>
Search each reel by keyword and/or document number using 'Find in page'.

Content of index to Colonial Secretary's letters received

A descriptive index covering people, places, subjects dealing with:

- convict and immigrant matters: journeys and arrangements made
- decisions about employment and payment
- use and construction of buildings e.g. immigration barracks
- surveying, sales and use of land; what was happening in different settlements
- issues such as sly grog

- growing of crops and grazing
- responses to petitions from individuals and groups
- decisions about public expenditure

Format of PDF index

- reel number, letter number and date
- origin of letter
- content and people involved

It is still a work in progress: 1822-1859 covered.

The letters and documents

A2 series: A2.1 to A2.53 form a complete set.

The A2 series was prepared before the NSW State Library and Archives had become separate bodies or had established current cataloguing systems and so do not conform to what might be familiar. The letters and associated documents are on microfilm located at the end of the Dewey run on the microfilm shelves on level 3.

Letters relating to Moreton Bay and Queensland 1822-1860 (microform) Film 759

These are only the first 15 of the 53 films. The master films are kept at the State Library of NSW but only these first 15 reels of the series have survived. They have been duplicated for State Library and are kept in storage.

Use of index

It is a valuable source of primary source documents on Moreton Bay providing contextual information beyond that which is connected only to a personal name, linking to:

- *Queensland early pioneers indexes 1824-1859* aka Queensland Family History Society *Pre-Separation population index of Moreton Bay region 1824-1859*, [microfiche] MFCB 929.3943 1990 or [CD-ROM] QCFS 929.3943 2004. Includes 78 sources.
- Australian Joint Copying Project (AJCP)
- Images, newspaper sources, diaries, and books
- NSW Votes & Proceedings MFL 328.944
- Queale collection of convicts sent to Moreton Bay. Convict list held at level 3 desk.
- The *Colonial Secretary's Papers, 1788-1825* indexed at <https://mhns.w.au/indexes/colonial-secretary/colonial-secretarys-papers-1788-1825/>
[Records may be on microfilm or microfiche.](#)
- NSW Colonial Secretary's Correspondence indexed by Joan Reese:
 - *Index to convicts*, MFC 929.3944 1994-
 - *Letters sent re convicts*, MFC 929.3944 1996-1997
 - *Convicts transported to Moreton Bay from N.S.W. 1824-31* Q 365.9943 con (extracted from AO/SR reel 749)

Note: Indexes to the Colonial Secretary's Correspondence done by those other than the Archives staff are filed behind the AO/SR fiches in the microfiche drawers on level 3.

Need further information?

(07) 3840 7810 | slq.qld.gov.au/ask

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