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Papers of Augustus Poeppel

PRG 143  
Series List

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Augustus Poeppel, boundary surveyor, 16 April 1839 -4. July 1891.

In accordance with instructions dated 4 June 1879 (GRG 35, S.G.O. letter book for 1879, p.452-461; Lands Dept. Research Note, Accession 1324/136) Augustus Poeppel working for the South Australian Government, surveyed the eastern boundary line of the province of South Australia (i.e. the 141st meridian) from Cooper Creek to the 26th parallel of latitude (Haddon Corner).

Poeppel then, in accordance with instructions also dated 4 June 1879, surveyed the 26th parallel of latitude from the 141st meridian to the 138th meridian (Poeppel Corner).

Certificates on both surveys were signed by Poeppel on 19 May 1881.

Following a triangulation completed in the area in 1882 by the surveyor W.H. Cornish a discrepancy was apparently found in Poeppel's calculations. In accordance with further instructions dated 11 December 1883 (Series 2 in this group of papers) Poeppel returned to the 26th parallel and rechaind the line from the 138th meridian back to the 91st Mile Post. On 17 February 1884 he reported his new chainage to the Surveyor General (The chain formerly used was found to have been an inch too long).

A post at the point where South Australia meets the Northern Territory on its eastern side ('Poeppel Corner') initially erected by Poeppel in December 1880, was relocated after the second survey had been made.

Morris, Hayter and Barry's *Commercial and Trades Directory of South Australia*, 1882, includes the entry 'Poeppel, Augustus, surveyor, Carrington Street, Adelaide.' The next appearance of the name in directories is in 1886, in a list of licensed surveyors, with no address given. The same entry occurs annually until 1892, with the added information from 1890 that he was resident in Victoria.

Poeppel was born on 16 April 1839 in Hamburg and died on 4 July 1891 in Melbourne. He was the son of Friedrich Poeppel, builder, and Friederike Dorothea, nee Haase. At the age of 28, in Beaufort, he was married to Mary Kelly. At the time of his death there had been four children: Clara (dead), Augustus (dead), Kathleen (dead) and Augustus (then aged 8).

Poeppel spent 2 years in New Zealand, 1 year in Western Australia, 5 years in South Australia and 36 years in Victoria. (It can therefore be presumed that he was taken to New Zealand by his parents at the age of about 8 in about 1847.) The address where he died was 449 Swanston Street, Melbourne. He was buried at the New Cemetery, Melbourne. (Details from Series 8 and 9).

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Portrait photograph of Augustus Poeppel. n.d. 1 item.	1
Instructions for a boundary survey issued by the Surveyor General, G.W. Goyder. 11 December 1883. 7p. Ms. This bears a reference, 'Crown Lands and Immigration. 1883 No.2395.' Poeppel's name in pencil appears at the head.	2
'Report on the Province Boundary Survey'. 1880. 6p. Ms.	3
Draft description of an invention to overcome the disadvantage of break of gauge in railway systems, addressed to the Commissioner of Public Works by Augustus Poeppel. 23 April 1883. 3p. Ms.	4
Surveyor's licence issued to Augustus Poeppel. 26 August 1880 (?). 1p. Date appears to have been altered from 1885.	5
Special licence issued to Augustus Poeppel as Surveyor under the provisions of the Real Property Acts of 1861 and 1878. 26 August 1885. 1p.	6
Map of country immediately east of the South Australian border, showing territorial subdivisions. n.d. 1 item. 45 x 178.5 cm.	7
Photographic copy of extract showing death of Augustus Poeppel from register of deaths held by Government Statist, Melbourne. 1891. 1 item. Not originally part of this group of papers.	8
Copy of extract showing baptism of Augustus Poeppel from baptismal register of the Church of St. Michael's, Hamburg. 1839. 1 item. Supplied by Staatsarchiv, Hamburg. Not originally part of this group of papers.	9