
CAWTHORNE, William Anderson

PRG 489
Series List

William Anderson Cawthorne was born in London on 25 September 1825 and arrived in South Australia with his mother aboard the *Amelia* on 15 May 1841. His father, W.C. [William Cook] Cawthorne, was a master mariner on the India service prior to his appointment as first lighthouse keeper at Cape Willoughby in 1852.

Cawthorne's early career was devoted to schoolmastering. Mrs. Cawthorn (sic) is listed in Bennett's 1845 South Australian Almanack as schoolmistress, Currie Street, and almanacs from 1846 to 1850 but W.A. Cawthorne as schoolmaster, Currie Street, where he ran the Adelaide Grammar School. From 1851 to 1865 almanacs list him as schoolmaster, Morphett Street.

Cawthorne was a founding member of the South Australian Preceptors Association (1851) and briefly a member of the Central Board of Education to which he was appointed in April 1852. He was sometime superintendent of Holy Trinity Church Sunday School.

He was an advocate of temperance and of the abolition of capital punishment. He was married to Mary Ann Mower at Holy Trinity on 27 June 1848.

Cawthorne's writings indicate a romantic attitude to wilderness, and from a perspective of Victorian prejudice, he was a keen observer of aboriginal customs. He executed numerous sketches featuring aborigines and aboriginal implements. Amongst his writings, *Rough Notes on the Manners and Customs of the Natives*, 1844, was printed in the 1925-26 Proceedings of the Royal Geographical Society of Australasia, S.A. Branch. *The Legend of Kupirri*, composed in the style of Longfellow's *Hiawatha*, appeared in 1858. A second edition was published by A.N. Cawthorne around the turn of the century. *The Islanders*, published in 1854, was reprinted by Rigby in 1920 as *The Kangaroo Islanders*, and presents a melodramatic account of the island's community of sealers and whalers prior to colonisation. A facsimile of his *Menge the Mineralogist*, 1859, was published by the Libraries Board of South Australia in 1962.

According to the obituary carried in the *Adelaide Observer* of 2 October 1897, W.A. Cawthorne established a stationery business. Cawthorne & Co., Newsagents, are first listed in the 1877 issue of the *South Australian Directory*.

Cawthorne provided illustrations for the *Illustrated Melbourne Post* which he published under the title of *The Illustrated Adelaide Post* from 1867 to 1874. He published the *Monthly Review or Town and Country Advertiser* from 1870 to 1871.

He served as a Councillor on the Adelaide City Council from December 1870 to November 1873, and was a supporter of the Volunteer Movement, reputed to be one of the Adelaide Rifles' crack shots.

At the time of his death on 27 September 1897, William Anderson Cawthorne was Secretary of the National Building Society which he had founded in 1862, one of several investment companies with which he was associated.

References:

The Official Civic Record of South Australia, Universal Publishing Company, Adelaide, 1936.

The Adelaide Observer, 2 October 1897.

Dutton, Geoffrey, White on Black, Macmillan, 1974.

Lurline, Stuart, Nineteenth Century Australian Periodicals. An Annotated Bibliography, Hale & Ironmonger, Sydney 1979.

Nance, Christopher, Two South Australian Writers, Tradition, No. 20, December 1979.

- Manuscripts in the Mitchell Library. 1
1842-1891.
[The Mitchell Library Cawthorne Manuscripts comprise diaries 22 October 1842 - 12 April 1846, notes and sketches re the Aboriginal people of South Australia 1844, letters received 1844 and papers relating to education and other interests of W.A. Cawthorne 1850-1891. A list of items appears on the microfilm Accession P232.] RESTRICTED MICROFILM
RESTRICTION: Not to be copied without consent of the Library Council of N.S.W.
- Journal of a Tour in Terra Australis Incognita by Markum and Sketchum. 2
1844. 1v., 44p.
[Formerly accession D 4462 L. Illustrated original journal containing Cawthorne's observations in the course of a walk in S.A.'s Southern Vales area. A small insert plan of the Onkaparinga 'Horseshoe' appears in greater detail in Series 1, diaries item 2, on microfilm reel 1.]
- Rough Notes on the Manners and Customs of the Natives. 3
1844-1845. 1v. 73p. + typed copy.
[Formerly accession 763. The manuscript of 5 chapters presents Cawthorne's observations on various features of Aboriginal life and includes 2 sketches and an 'ornithological' index of Aboriginal words. The work appears to be a refinement of Series 1, item 24 on microfilm reel 2. Minutes of the Society for the Abolition of Capital Punishment 26 September 1844 - 25 April 1845, 13p., are included in the volume.]
- Reports of trips. 4
1849, 1859. 2 items. 0.5cm. Printed.
[Comprises account of steam trip to Port Lincoln in 1849 published in the Colonial Argus, formerly accession A 556, together with an account of a Christmas trip to Kangaroo Island in 1859.]

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- Papers relating to acclimatisation. 5
ca.1870. 2 items. 1cm. Manuscript and printed.
[Comprises draft manuscript titled 'Some thoughts on
acclimatisation' lacking original pages 14 to 16 and
article titled Acclimatization of man reprinted from the
'Melbourne Argus' 1870.]
- Biographical sketch of Johann Menge. 6
1859. 1cm. Typescript.
[Formerly accession A 611.]
- Poems. 7
1857-1863. 3 items. 0.5cm.
Manuscript and printed.
[Comprises poem titled 'A lay for the twenty eighth' written
for celebration of the majority of the colony of South
Australia 1857 formerly accession A 1551, poem titled
'A memento of the first volunteer guard in South Australia'
1863 and a poem describing the atmosphere of the
Australian bush.]
- Artworks. 8
1844-1896. 21 items. 5cm. Watercolour.
[Comprises sketches by Cawthorne of Aboriginal
implements, John Chapman and Johann Menge
(formerly accession B 5112), Aboriginal people on
Bay Road, Port Lincoln, Holy Trinity Church (formerly
accession B 13785), sunset and sunrise, Port Pirie,
Mount Breckan (Victor Harbor) and Stansbury.
SEE SPECIAL LIST.]
- Sketches from sketchbooks and manuscript material lent to
the Mitchell Library by Mrs A. Marshall for copying. 9
c.1844-48. 12 items. Photographic copies
[Tsf. P666 No reproduction without Mitchell Library
permission.]
- Ambrotype portraits and other photographs lent to the Mitchell
Library by Mrs A. Marshall. 10
n.d. 8 items. Photographic copies.
[Tsf. P666 No reproduction without Mitchell Library
permission.]
- Sketchbooks and manuscript material lent to the Mitchell Library
by Mrs A. Marshall for copying. 11
c.1844-48. 2 reels RESTRICTED Microfilm .
[Tsf. P777 No reproduction without Mitchell Library
permission.]

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- Map of the settled portion of South Australia. 12
1850. 1 item. 35cm x 30cm. Pen and wash.
[Illustrated with watercolour vignettes of Burra Creek,
Encounter Bay and River Murray and inscribed with
statistical table of urban and rural schools.]
- Handbill. 13
1857. 1 item. 45cm. x 30cm. Printed.
[Comprises advertisement for lecture by Cawthorne
on conchology.]
- Booklet of manuscript poems 14
ca.1856. 1 item. 0.5 cm. Manuscript
[Booklet of 37 pp with original poems written down, with many
annotations and corrections. Pages 25-31 have a vocabulary of
words, some of indigenous connotation. Page 36 includes some
indigenous vocabulary (12 words).] **Formerly A 558**
- South Australian Aboriginal defending himself 15
1868. 1 item. 0.5cm. Watercolour
[Watercolour and pencil painting on paper, 15.5 x 11.4 cm, of an
Aboriginal man defending himself with a shield from an attack of
spears, balancing on one leg, and holding up a spear in his right
hand. The artwork is signed and dated in pencil by the artist,
beneath the image, 'W. Cawthorne, Adelaide, 1868'. The artist's
caption, written in pencil at the bottom edge of the sheet, reads:
'Sth. Aust. Aboriginal defending himself'. On the verso are
annotations in pencil, including '359 Collins Street', the address
of Melbourne art auctioneers Arthur Tuckett & Sons.]