

TRANSCRIPTION

Transcribed item

Letter from Ann Collick to Eleanor Willoughby, National Library of Australia, MS 9017, Item 1.
<https://nla.gov.au/nla.cat-vn2829447>

Transcription explanatory notes

This transcription is a copy of the document, not a facsimile. For this reason, certain elements of the original document may not have been reproduced. To assist the reader, the following approach was taken:

Spelling

The original document uses the archaic form of 'fs' to represent modern day 'ss', e.g. 'ifsue' for 'issue'. For ease of comprehension this has not been reproduced in the transcription.

Deciphered words

[word?] = the transcriber's best guess at deciphering a word that was difficult to interpret

Page location within the original document

The transcribed document did not have page numbers. To indicate the location of each page within the original document, pagination has been applied by the transcriber. The unique URL of each digitised page has also been cited.

Punctuation

The transcribed document did not have punctuation. For ease of comprehension, punctuation has been added in the transcription.

Formatting

For ease of comprehension the format of the transcribed document has not been strictly followed.

Background information

Letter from Ann Collick to Eleanor Willoughby describing the voyage out to Australia, the countryside around Oatlands near Hobart and their new life there. Writes of plans for starting a farm of their own.

Dairymaid, housemaid. John (28yrs, labourer) and Ann (29yrs, nee Hughes) Collick were married on 8 October 1848 at West Mailing Kent. They lived at 66 Nine Elms Grove Gravesend¹ and emigrated to Tasmania under the Bounty Regulations. They arrived² on the *Derwentwater*³ on the 26 November 1854 as part of indentured immigration program. They worked for Henry Frampton Anstey,^{4 5} a justice of the peace at Anstey Barton at Oatlands. John Collick can later be found in Omeo.

Paper: Laid, cream.

Watermark: on p. 6

Provenance: Purchased from Henry Bristow Ltd, Ringwood, Hants, UK

¹ Ancestry.com. *1851 England Census Class: HO107; Piece: 1608; Folio: 186; Page: 24; GSU roll: 193508*

² Libraries Tasmania record [CB7/12/1/3 BK1](#) page 6-7

³ <https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/3334416?searchTerm=Collick>

⁴ https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Henry_Anstey

⁵3rd son of Thomas Anstey (Ansley) Libraries Tasmania record [CSO3-1-3 010 A](#) see also <http://adb.anu.edu.au/biography/anstey-thomas-1709>

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Transcription

[Page 1 <https://nla.gov.au/nla.obj-533829552>]

In blue ink: To Eleanor Willoughby
In pencil : Ann Collick

Oatlands Feby 2nd 1855

Dear Friend

Having got settled here I write according to promise to let you know that we arrived here safely and in good health after a passage of 126 days on board of ship & 108 days sailing on the deep wide blue sea. We encountered no rough weather till we got to the Cape of Good Hope but afterwards it was very cold & stormy. We had two storms which had likely to have sent us to the bottom but thank God we got safely thro them.

[Page 2 <https://nla.gov.au/nla.obj-535778859>]

Oatlands is about 50 miles up the country from Hobart Town. It is not a town as [-illegible crossed out] might be supposed as it is counted the third in the Colony but there are many country villages in England more deserving the name than this is. As to the country I must say it is very rugged and mountainous. The highest hills are covered with wood. There is little level ground in comparison to the extent surface and not much under the plough.

Labour seems to be the great want here. It is at present a bad article at a high price. As to the climate you will have the best idea of it when I tell you that

[Page 3 <https://nla.gov.au/nla.obj-535778988>]

the scarlet geraniums, dahlias, myrtles and such like tender plants stand here all winter out of doors and flower most splendidly in the summer. There is a long course of dry weather here so as to make all the pastures quite brown; then it may set in for rain for weeks together.

We left a very good master at home and I am happy to say that we have found a very good employer here. Indeed we have found him every thing that was reported of him.

My husband is gardener & not groom as was his engagement. The reason is that Mr Ansty had bought

[Page 4 <https://nla.gov.au/nla.obj-535779113>]

an entire horse a very savage, dangerous animal consequently the man that attended to him before had to come here on that account. But he is about to leave & master gave him the opportunity of taking the situation. But he declined it tho it would have been as good as 70 pounds per annum but he did not think there [would?] be any great loss ultimately as he has a good neighbour with him in the garden just come from Scotland & they are about taking 20 acres of land which they can get two years for nothing and seed to crop it with for the first year & the third season and ever after the rent is

[Page 5 <https://nla.gov.au/nla.obj-535779244>]

rent is 13 bushels of wheat per acre let the price be what it may that is a Mr Anstey standard. Then if we have any spare money we can purchase a cow or two which would be allowed to graze in the fields for nothing & if they multiply to a dozen no money would be asked for their keep so that I have no doubt but we will succeed very well here.

I am dairymaid housemaid & take charge of the poultry. Don't you think dear Elen that I have got my worth.

[Page 6 <https://nla.gov.au/nla.obj-535779373>]

If Ann is married say to her that she & her husband would do well here. Would you be kind as go to John's mother & get ~~the~~ McCrie's bill & send to us enclosed in your answer to this. Be pleased to give our duty to our late Master & family. Our kind love to Mrs Kitchen, to Mary & Louisa, to Mr & Mrs

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Johnstones, Mr Pryer. Please to ask Mrs Druce whether she can let us know where Buckland is & if you can give us his address. It is ½ past 8 o'clock P.M. with us & with you it is 10 o'clock A.M. This leaves us in good health as I hope it will find you. Thank God.

I remain dear Elen yours truly Ann & [Spin-Mischief]

On the side: P.S. Remember us to Mrs Davy

To Elen Willoughby

[Page 7 <https://nla.gov.au/nla.obj-535779569>]

Address

John Collick

H.F. Anstey Esqr

Anstey Barton

Oatlands

Van De Man's Land

Watermark: 1834 in double lines