

**Title**

Letters of Robert Salsbury - MS 210 /item 1/letter 1/1-4, 1871

**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:** This document contains archaic forms of words. The spelling of such words has been retained, with the inclusion of (sic) at the first occurrence to indicate that this is not a misspelt word.

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

**Deciphered words:**

[ - ] = a single word is illegible

[ - - ] = two consecutive words are illegible

*italics* = content added by transcriber

[word?] = best guess

**Page location within the original document:**

This document does not have page numbers. To indicate the location of each page within the original document, the unique url number, which appears at the top of the digitised image of that page, has been included.

**Punctuation:**

Not used throughout this document and for ease of comprehension, has been added in the transcription

**Capitalisation:**

Used irregularly throughout this document and for ease of comprehension, has not been reproduced in the transcription

**Formatting:**

For ease of comprehension, the original format of the document has not been strictly followed. However, the following elements have been included:

- Page breaks
- New paragraphs

**Background information:**

Robert J. Salsbury was born in England in 1834.

Siblings include Charles, Augusta, Emily and 3 others.

Spouses: Mary Ann (nee Gilliland) m.1857 – 7 children; Isabella (nee Smith)m. 1881 – 10 children

Died 2 April 1897 from a riding accident at Bedourie Station Taroom Qld

External links:

Family tree: [https://www.myheritage.com/names/robert\\_salsbury](https://www.myheritage.com/names/robert_salsbury) ;

Newspaper: <https://www.myheritage.com/research/record-10450-31766373/queenslander-brisbane-qld>

Transcription follows:

p.1 <https://nla.gov.au/nla.obj-562861526>

Spottiswoode

29<sup>th</sup> Dec 1871

Dear Father

I wrote to you last month and to Ambrose this I could not write as I promised on [account] of it being our busy time and my overseer not being well , brought the work heavy on me. However I have done shearing and half of my work is now in the market, and I am in good hopes it will sell well this year. This is the first year that begins to give me a clear return for the last nine years work – for that space of time it was a hard struggle with [illegible] my only profit was the increase of my sheap [sic] – by other recourses of making money – I always laid out in stock, horses & cattle – And until this year on [account] of the low price of wool it took it all nearly to pay expenses of the working of my

station(s) but now wool as rose to every man its old price-it will leave a good margin of profit, and now I do not intend to buy any more stock, but to let what I have

p. 2 <https://nla.gov.au/nla.obj-562861657>

increase to a certain amount and then sell off every year any that I have over the amount I intend to keep. I have just completed an arrangement with the Government for 21 years lease on this station with the right of purchase of the whole or part for 5/ (five shillings) per acre – at any time during the 21 years – this arrangement makes the station much more valuable as in the event of my selling it I have the right to transfer all my privileges to whomsoever I sell it. I am just preparing to go down to Town for my 12 months supplies and after that when the cool weather sets in I intend to take Marion and children down and will then send you there likenesses. This promise depends greatly on my better half for she as had so much roaming about with me – that she almost dreads leaving home even for a few weeks. I am very much disappointed About this last mail ship having gone down – of course (ere) this you have heard of it I was in hopes to have a letter from

p. 3 <https://nla.gov.au/nla.obj-562861784>

Mother or [Rodie] however if they did write I hope they will do so again for by all accounts the mail will be completely destroyed even should they recover it. I have not received any newspapers from you yes, tell me have you ever got any from me.

I have sent you in all five. There is bitter complaints out here about the newspapers not one in three ever coming to hand. The letters you say you wrote jointly to Charles and me did you address them to him at the Porcupine Hotel. I have wrote to Charles and also to the Postmaster but as yet have received no reply but expect to hear next mail – but I told him how anxious you were to hear from him and I think he will at once write to you. The fact of him and I not keeping up a correspondence, you must not blame him for that, it was my fault for after parting with him in cold Bendigo [ill.34] I never write to him ~~ill.34~~ like about 4 years ago when he did not reply to it for nearly a year and a half – but as soon as I hear from him I will let you know.

p.4 <https://nla.gov.au/nla.obj-562861919>

And I am anxious now to find him for should the world not have gone smooth with him you can depend Father I will do what a Brother [aught] to do, if he chooses to write to me. I send you by this mail also the ups & downs of my life out here – dates I cannot send – as I write from recollection, but you can depend on it being correct many things you may see to blame me for but hope you will make allowance for my [-] perceive of the world. And I can assure you when I came to this colony everything seemed to be up side down to what it was at home. Is Mothers mother alive. If so give her my love and tell her I do not forget my boyish days when I lived with her. Ask Mother to send me her likeness. I would like to have one of all my sisters if possible if you have any of Augusta's please let me have one. I

have wrote to Emily and hope to get an answer soon. Marion sends her love to you, and begs me to state you need never fear now but what you will hear regularly from us – So with kind love to yourself, mother and all the rest

Beleive me

My dear Father

Your affectionate son

Robert S. Salsbury