

D 2685/1-6 (L) Letters by Rosina Ferguson 1836-50

Transcribed by Peter Anson, Volunteer at the State Library of South Australia, 2017

[*typewritten*]

LETTERS OF MRS. WILLIAM FERGUSON.

- A/1 Rosina Ferguson to her parents, 24 June 1836, written while awaiting permission to embark on the Buffalo. Contains references to Sir James Malcolm (brother to Sir Pulteny) and Captain Hindmarsh.
- B/2 Same to same, 12 July 1836, on the Buffalo. Refers to Captain Hindmarsh, Sir James Malcolm, Robert Cock, and conditions on board the Buffalo.
- C/3 Same to same, 15 February 1837, From Adelaide. Describes conditions on the Buffalo, criticises the Rev. C.B. Howard, and refers to the soil near Adelaide, the scarcity of transport, the peaceable natives, wages, and other conditions.
- D/4 Same to same, 26 June 1839, from Magill. Refers to William Malcolm's intemperate habits, and Cock and Ferguson's property at Magill.
- E/5 Rosina Ferguson to her sister and brother, 17 August 1848, from Rosefield [*crossed out in pencil*] (~~Section 251 at~~ (Fullarton). Gives an account of the misfortunes and failure of the firm of Cock and Ferguson, and describes the Ferguson farm at Rosefield.
- F/6 Rosina Ferguson to her mother. Written at Rosefield in or about 1850.

[*handwritten in black ink*]

Extracts from \the / Letters were pubd. In G.C. Morphet's "William & Rosina Ferguson".
(Donation 2612) (Recd. 12.4.1944) 1384/14

[*overleaf*]

BOARD OF TRADE, (STANDARDS DEPARTMENT).
7 OLD PALACE YARD S.W., 2nd. August, 1892.

Sir, In reply to your letter of the 16th. June last, I beg to transmit to you herewith copies of the Annual Report of this Department for 1890; a "report on the Standards of "Measure and Weight deposited in the "House of Parliament in 1758 – 1760", and a "Descriptive List of Standards of "Weight and Measure deposited with the "Board of Trade, and of the Instrumental "Equipment of the Standards Office". The Report of the Department for the present year is now at the printer's and a copy will be forwarded to you as soon so it is issued.

I am, Sir, Your obedient Servant , H.J.Chaney Superintendent of Weights and Measures.

R.B. Lucas Esq.,

Warden of South Australian Standards.

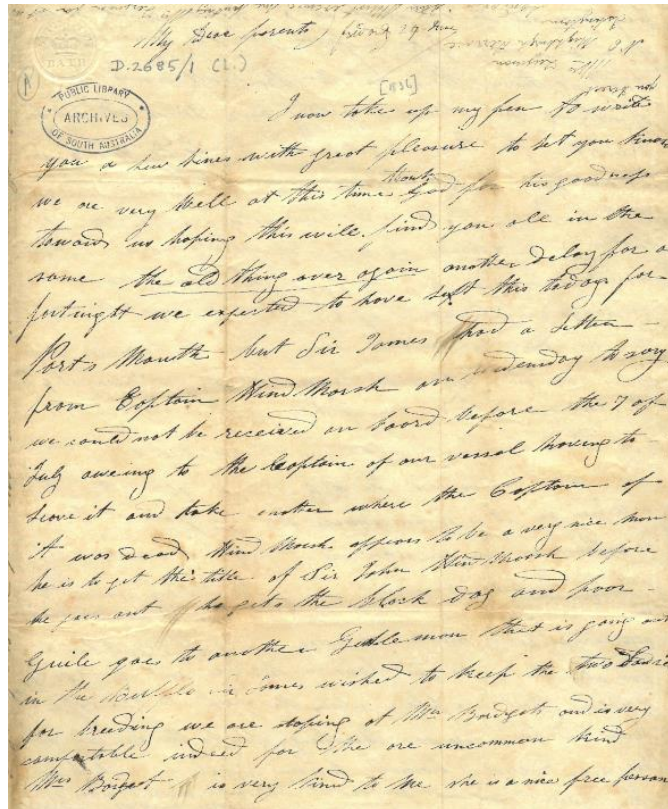
Surveyor General's Office, Adelaide.

[*left marginal note*] Report 1890, Old Parlt F Standards
1758 – 60, Descriptive List.

[*this whole letter has been crossed out in pencil*]

D 2685/1 letter A

[impressed letterhead] Royal Crown surrounded by words SUPERFINE BATH



My Dear parents [*in pencil*] \[1836]/ I now take up my pen to write you a few lines with great pleasure to let you know we are very well at this time \thank/ God for his goodness towards us hoping this will find you all in the same the old thing over again another delay for a fortnight we expected to have left this today for Ports Mouth but Sir James had a letter from Captain Hind Marsh on Wednesday to say we could not be received on board before the 7 of July owing to the Captain of our vessel having to leave it and take another where the Captain of it was dead Hind Marsh appears to be a very nice man he is to get the title of Sir John Hind Marsh before he goes out he gets the black dog and poor Guile goes to another Gentleman that is going out in the Bufflo Sir James wished to keep the two ladies [?] for breeding we are stoping at M^{rs} Badgets and is very comfortable

indeed for the are uncommon kind M^{rs} Bardget is very kind to me she is a nice free person

[page 2]

Ferguson and the lad sleeps at a Hotel about as far from us as Scots gate is from you Sir James was for boarding them there but M^{rs} Bardgett would hear of nothing but all of us getting our Meat at her house it is better for them to get it here M^{rs} Bardgetts is a very pleasant house to stop at for he is a most sincere good man we have prayers twice a day and nothing must either be spoke of on Sabbath or done of worldly concerns but what cannot be avoided he is the most like John Cleminson in his ways very frightened of offending and neglecting his duty he is very little at his own house where his busyness [?] is is about four and a half miles from this he goes away at 9 [?] in the morning and dis not return till night he stops in the City and his houses in London you know it is all London but what is termed the City is where all the bussness is carried on it is of an imence size a fair at Annon is nothing in compairison to it people can scarcely get walking Onibuses Carriges Gigs Waggonns the are just flying in all directions you would think the would knock each other over every minute we were seeing St Pauls Curch and all the docks and London bride [*perhaps London Bridge*] and the Zoological Gardens that is a place where the keep all kinds of wild beasts and burds wee saw the kings parks the are very nice Ferguson delivered Cornell Drioms [?] parcel he went to see the review I did not go for it was such a long way of [*written upside down at the bottom of the page*] daughter Rosina Forthsyth

[page 3]

a place in London [?] is not like Annon for it is such a size but he gave it to himself he asked him if he was going back but he said no their was little said for he was in a hurry going to the review my Dear parents I must now give you a small detail of our going after that David left us we got very well on in the railway it is very quick it dis not go within 4 Miles of Newcastle we got a cart for our luggage and walked our selves we we went on board the packet at half past 12 and on Saturday about two hours after she said I grew very sick and threw a great deale but nothing but pure bile green and yellow I then went to bed I was not so sick as long as I kept my head down but if ever I had lifted it I was at work again I got up next Morning an went on deck to see Ferguson \he was very little sick/ but I grew very sick and had to go to bed I never got up till Monday Morning about half past four I was sick while [page torn] she dis not come within 9 Miles of this she landed at a place [page torn] call Poplar [?] it was 2 2 oclock on Monday Morning when she arrived saturday night and sabbath for noon we had a very ruff sea but I have great reason to be thank full I am enjoying pretty good health now M^{rs} B. tells me there is a particular nice Clergy Man going out with us which is a great comfort I will send another letter when Sir James returns to Scotland [?] but I hope to hear from you soon for I have had nay [?] conversation with you since I left Sir James has all things that you can mention sent out for us the girl goes out upon chance one of the Miss Hind Marshes is Married to a Officer she does not go she is only 18 years of age Dear father you must let us know if David Holeday [?] was satisfied he would make no charge but F gave him 1£ 4^s and paid all his expeces and the horses my Dear friend I wish you may be able to make out this scroll but do write soon I hope it will find you all well send me all the news how your legs and every thing that I have forgot to mention if you tell me I will tell you next time Ferguson joins me with kind love to you all I have not space to mention every ones name but I mean all friends and enquiring persons [left margin] so good bye may God be our cheif delight and all our guidse in this \world/ so we will have [?] better hopes for the next I must now conclude and believe me ever your \all/ affechant [?]

M^r William Forsyth
Mount Annan
near Annan
Dumfriesshire
paid NB

[Postmarks]

[in red ink]

7N^T·7 PAID JU24 1836 7N^T·7

PAID 24JU24 1836

G.P PAID

[sealed with a red wax seal]

D 2685/2 letter B

on Board His Majestys Ship Buffalo
Portsmouth

July the 12 1836

My Dear parents and friends

I now embrace this oppertunity along with Sir James he intends to leave us tomorrow we have fairly hired him old Captain Hind Marsh is still at London he is attending Court to day to take leave of the King he is to be here tomorrow and we expect to get away in the end of the week I am sure it is quiet provokeing the way the have gone on first and last we have been on board since friday last we fare very well I have great reason to be thankful to God I have enjoyed pretty good health I was sickish yesterday I think it is oweing to the confusion which the vessel is in but thank be to the giver of every blessing I am better Sir James was here today and wished me to go on Shore and take lodgines until the vessel sailed but I wished to accustome my self on the whole since I left I have had pretty good health inless it was the sickness in the packet I think I will be sick for a week or so again after we start perhaps not Sir James brought me down on teusday with himself in the coach to prevent me being sick and fatigued whereas he could have got me down in the packet free M^r William and Ferguson has[?] come all down in her M^r William was very sick but F. was none [?] he is the best salior of the Whole of us Man and Women of [...] has done all that has laid in their power to makee us comfortable bothe of us since we came amongst them and still doing and telling the head commanders of the vessel how much the repect us both and how the wish us to be the made comfortable Sir James you would say renewed [?] his age when he gets to Ports Mouth all Gaptain Colonels [?] Officers and all the Head Soldiers seem as happy to see him as he was there father my dear parents I was very happy to here you were all enjoying tolerable good health which is beyond all the blessings in this world we can crave and happy to say Ferguson is got quiet free from his complaint he was complaining of when we left I was very sorry indeed to here of Gaptain Dirom being so poorly but am happy to here from M^r James to day that he is getting a great deale better he never got over it [?] till yesterday the Pembroke is lying at a place the call spithead about 9 [?] miles from this he came yesterday We were in the cabin and the Saliors

[page 2]

on Deck told him we were all on shore but he came back to day and I do assure you I was happy to see the home [?] blythe face of him he was as cheerful and free as ever he was M^r William Malcolm was saying what a confusion of this and that M^r James made the reply Oh we must just put up with all those things we are not at home he told me he was going to write to morrow for home and he would tell he was here and saw us he asked if we had any word I said none but if he pleased to say how we were and Where and I would send a letter by Sir James he promised to come back and see us before we saile if he can yet if not he said we were to keep a look out as we passed Spithead and he would give us a signnale of farewell he did more than either you or we could expect there is a distant relation of theirs a M^r Philips one of the head Managers of the vessel well he went to him and said he hoped he would see that F. and me \was/ made comfortable how considert [?] and kind that was of him I do assure you I think a great deal of it M^r. William also is beyond every thing with kindness [?] to me there is a great

deale of both Ladies and Gentle Men going out with us but they are not come on bord yet and a docter how many young Docters I do not know there is just another scotch family beside us the come frome fife shire within 9 [?] Miles of Romina but they do not know Uncles folk his name is Cock he is a joiner with a wife and six children just going out at his own expence upon chance he has been this six weeks at Ports Mouth at lodgings and they are very dear here indeed there is a great deal of familys going in the Buffalo but they are a good way of us for the children makes a such noise there is 22 in our mess that is the place that we Stop [?] in our beds is six feet long 4 feet wide they are like \Press/ shelves 1 [?] above another ours fortunatly is an under one they are no more division than a piece of \canvass/ for the side partision they are like my Mothers hens nests) how strange every thing seems here indeed such a set the English is. I like the Scotch folks ways best yet by far they are beyond all for stuffing for there tripe My Dear friends I think it will be a fortnight from this before Sir James reaches Longhom but as M^r Jones Diron promised to send word about us where we were and how we need not dispatch one just now please God to spare us to reach the Cape of Good hope they intend to put in there so we will send you a few lines the next will [?]

[page 3]

again my dear parents I take up my pen to write a few more lines I am happy to \say/ we are both pretty well again this morning we leave this harbour about 1 oclock to day at least they are all prepareing for it just now I think I have mentioned every thing I think will interest you Ferguson was very sorry at the parten with Guile and so was I but it was Sir James wish and he would not hesitate about it We have got a good deal of things for common clothing at London which will keep us comfortable for years please God to spare us and give us health to use them indeed \every/ thing still the same as before seems prosperus and favourable as we can expect and even more than we could expect but it is hard to say how the helm of fortune \will turn/ all that is hid from us my dear dear friends I must now drop and wish you good bys I wish you may be able to make out this scrawl I am far from you but I have every kindness shown me more than I ever expected in my station of life and more than that one of the kindest and best of husbands I could desire if it is the all Mighty will to spare us to gether if not that we may be enabled to undergo what ever he thinks proper to afflict us with Ferguson joins me with sincerest Love to you all John C Margaret & family John & Mary and family Aunt Mary david Steet and Jean Aunt Jean and all of Mary Ginn [?] and them all old Jeny [?] Biers Robert Ross [?] folk and John Hougham wife and all Jean Holliday and David we were happy to hear he was satisfied to all enquiering friends and accquentances which we have forgot to name tell Baby Akin [?] she must never think of coming till [?] she can lye in one of the Bullocks feeding troughs our Love [?] to J [?] Biers wife and family David and Ferguson sends his particular kind [?] Love to Christina [?] and she is to pay every attention and kindness to My father and Mother and please God he will reward her for it and she likewise will receieve the Allmightys blessing and reward I must now drop with our sincerest love and best wishes to you all so good bye and believe us ever your affectionate son and daughter Ferguson and Rosina Ferguson July the 19th 1836

[address page 4]

thursday Morning Spithead we have got this far now my dear father it looks a little better now & we expect Captain H today so if the wind is favourable we get of on Saturday M^r William came

on board to day and Sir J so we have all to take leave of him to morrow he starts for London there is a great deal of Soldiers always lies at Ports Mouth 5 or 6 regiments is of to assist the Queen of Spain for the are fears [?] of war commencing there is more going yet I had nearly forgot to say I wrote to Sophis [?] when at [...] I thought you would have heard before this as I got her to write to my father Now my Dear parents I hope you will I seriously beg of you not to make your selves unhappy about us for we are very comfortable as much and more than we I could [?] expect and [?] I will not let[?] one oppertunity slip of giving you every detail how we are and how we get on please God to spare us so god bye and believe me ever your dearly affectionate [?] daughter Rosina Forsyth July 14th

[right marginal note]

after you have read the paper you may send it to my father in law Hardy perhaps will like to see it Sir James has made me a present of a £ wort [*worth*] of little cake it is Best [... ...] it is like [?] Glue [?] in case I am sick we dissolve [... ...] in water and it is like best tea

William Forsyth
Mount Annan
Annan
take Care of the Letter

[sealed with a red wax seal]

D 2685/3 letter C

[note at the top of the page] we are in good health just now thank God.

[upside down] adress your letters Adelaide Astralia Gulf St Vincent

My Dear parents and friends Adelaide 1837 Feb 15th

I now take the pleasure of writing you a few lines to acquaint you of our arrival please God it may reach you and find you all enjoying good health which is above all earthly blessings we can receive after a long but safe passage we ancorherd at ~~Holdfast~~ Holdfast Bay on 28th of December between Rio de Janerio were I wrote you last from and here I enjoyed better health than in the first part of our voyage but I was still very poorly untill the 3 of January I was a little worse than I had been for a week or two at 12 oclock \at night/ I grew pretty ill but in 2 hours and 20 minutes I was delivered of a little Australian [?] girl I am happy to inform \you/ through Gods never failing goodness she is a fine thriving little plant as ever you saw she never knew what it was to have either the cold air takeing of the watter she was washed in her clothes never got an air nor her feet never felt the heat of the fire so with God nothing is impossible she had long black hair down her neck when she was born she grows full quicker than little John C did but poor little thing all her troubles are to come to yet its true we have the promise as the day is so shall thy strength be the Back is all we get fitted for the burden never O dear father and Mother did I expect to see this day or place but as the heavens is high above the earth so great is his mercy to them that fear him our light afflictions which is but for a moment worketh powers a far more exceeding and eternall weight of glory while we look not at the things which are seen but at the things which are not seen for the things which are seen are temporal but the things which are not seen are eternal O how sweet and profitable to be afflicted it is a lasting sting to the body while in a affliction it is then we appear to our [...] what we realy are I had a very trying time of it all the voyage but I cannot describe to you the comfort and happiness I now feale in Christ oh how pleasant it is to fear love and serve him one is never alone when the \heart/ & mind is so fixed although [although] Satan is often tempting and Seazeing [?] us weak Creatures though we are weak we are made strong Dear parents I must now tell you of my safe and quick recovery on Wedensday 4th she was born on 11th I came out of the port of the vessel to visit my old neibours at the other end of her and beleive me truly I felt stronger by ten times than when I went to the sick bay that was my confined [?] room just a small place screened off with saile clothe but I was very comfortable the Docter is a nice and knowing Man he has been very kind to me indeed I still continued from that to get on well for when she was a fortnight old I left the ship and came ashore to Glenelg that is where all that huts and tents are erected close to the shore so after resting a little while we all walked on to our place of destination 7 miles from Glenelg I carried Baby I was tired before we reached it but finely [?] refreshed in the morning I could not have done that all the voyage before she is lying on my knee at

[page 2]

present looking at me as if she understood what I was about she knows when a different voice is speaking she looks round till she sees them as if she was a twelve month old before we left the Buffalo we were like to be eat with bugs and fleas the used to try her some times when she was 3 nights old she caught me as firm as possible by the night gown and screamed & held as firm + have we have not got her battized yet as we expect a Minister of the Church of Scotland out in

the Sarah Ann I do not like M^r Howard neither in preaching nor in his other ways he is too given to the pleasures and frolic [?] of this world his gun or a dance he \may/ yet improve for he is but young and has not had much experience but he a very vain gay wife which is a great back draught to him oh how happy I would be for M^r Brown or one like him you [...] be thankful enough of being richly supplied as you are dear father and mother I must now try too describe the appearance and quilities [?] [*perhaps – qualities*] of this much spoken off Country too you and our opinions of it Adelaide is 7 miles from the port which prevents it being a commrescial [*probably commercial*] town but that makes no difference for the farmer the trees is about 15 & 18 feet round the butt on the arrival of the Surveyors the had set fire to the grass which was about 2 feet long it has burnt the hearts out of some of the trees and the bark of others yet the are growing and as fine or green as a Laurel bush so dear father you may fancy how fertile a soil it is Ferguson bids me tell you he is satisfyed beyond his expectations with the appearance of the country the soil in some parts is fine brown Mould [?] very suitable for growing corn and barley and as fresh [?] as a Mole Hillock other parts is clayey and a [*word crossed out*] heavy soil well adapted for wheat the sheep walks is beautiful with pine Hills likewise he sayes by care and industry please God to spare us and give us his countenance our intention of comeing will be accomplished in a few years it is harder work at present for the Bullocks is not arrived from Sidney only a few which the Commissoiers brought from the Cape of good Hope the let out at one Guinea a day the brought all our boxes and barrels which was neither light nor few from the shore themselves on an axel and two wheels what the call a truck with a long pole to draw it by is let out on hire at 2/6 per day remember \us/ to David Halliday tell him if he had just come on with \us/ and brought Vonnie ~~he had~~ he might have had his fortune nearly made by this time we are in a tent at present and has a hut erected for our luggage our town acrers [*word crossed out*] is not yet givin out yet nor we do not know how many weeks it will be before we get them they have been getting the reeds to ~~tatch~~ tatch the house they are now going to fell the trees for a clay daubing we expect to have it done fo [*possibly – for*] to live in this approaching winter this is our Sumer at present the heat is much the same as the warm days at home not so warm as when we was in London we have had frequently very fine showers since we came here we have at this place plenty of fine river water within 5 minutes walk for which we cannot be to thankful for in Kang grarow Ilsand [*Kangaroo Island*] where the Companys people are it is so scarce the just get the same allowed as on board half a quart a day for to wash themselves and drink which is very little My dear father and Mother I am happy beyond measure to inform you the natives are most unoffenscieve very good natured always laughing when we meet them they never showed any displeasure to [...] as yet the live [...] the mountains no huts but for a week or 2 the only roost [?] at one spot there has been about 58 seen they are very black and very short [?] we all think they will eisly be brought to understand what ever we say & the repeat [?] some of them is working to the head Surveyor at present we have neither seen nor heard of any wild animals as yet unless wild dogs has killed one sheep nor no venomious insects unless ants and some Miskates on a calm warm night some say the have seen black moths [?] but no harm has yet been doon the men at present are receiving 3/ a day and their meat I mean the men at large [?] not ours the farmers wages is 10 or 12£ a year ours gets 12^s [?] a Month they are only engaged by the Month I very [...] to in form you we are very happy but just cant see you yet I trust we will meet again in this world if not I hope in the next to part no more but be happy for ever we are still in the same minds as wenh [*when*] we left wont

[page 3]

advise any to come but we have no reflections ever we think will turn as well out through time as was reported there is plenty of Vituals in moderation we get butter here at 1/3 [?] per pound thats high I can keep it in tents not to melt but soft all I have stated concerning the country is true to our oppinions if I had seen the place before we left home I would not have hesitate once at coming only being deprived of seeing you all frequently any person that make enquires you may tell what I say they must all make up there minds to find difficultys on the voyae [voyage ?] and bring plenty of good serviceable clothing I have many a time given you a better detail than this I was [... ...] night in the cow park I came into my Mother for a drink of butter Milk you could not conceieve how the vessall got over the dyke I said a dyke was nothing to her You've [?] no Idea dear friend what a ship is like in the middle of the sea the nearest description [?] for you to understand it is when on deck and looking over the side of the ship I could have touched the water and \before/ one minute expired it was as far from us as looking out of a garret of a 4 story house so you may [...] what the sea will be when it is rough for at a time like this she was as steady as if at anchor we had fine [?] [...] by times the waves soshing [?] [*perhaps meaning "sloshing"*] over and coming in at the hatch way before they were aware Ferguson was bring the Pork one day for the Mess a large wave came back [?] over his head and left him with the plate in his hand he had no conception where it could begone [?] to it was no where to be seen I got as good a surprise for being [?] in bed and feeling her give a jolt knew what was coming I drew the curtain Imediatly I kenw [*knew ?*] nothing about the pork but put my hand upon it and feeling warm I screamed and what [...] one sees in going from home any females going to be long in vessal should bring rice sago & arrowt [*perhaps "arrowroot"*] a little \sugar/ brandy and wine for if sea sick as I have been they will only can take such I just lived on such like all the voyage dear father I am sorry to inform you we have lost one of \the/ beasts, [?] since we arrived here she had got a hurt not [?] the ship we think from some of the saliors for she bled very [...] at the head we thought [...] better but she grew quiet dull and slipt away to the river went in among the sages [?] and they hauld [?] her out by the skull [?] or they would have opened her we have [*small section of the page is torn at this point*] [...] he is very fresh but he did not know Ferguson we half have guiell [?] [*perhaps dog's name*] and the one we thought least off before she is in pup to the one the [...] got the Governor behaved in a very indifferent manner M^r Malcolm is doing far beyond Fergusons expectiones in working he is improving much in care and steadiness Ferguson has every satisfaction he could wish ~~with~~ for he askes his advice in every thing and he is good natured which is a great comfort he is not proud he gives us prayers every night not read ones dear friends we have not got our stock yet Ferguson is going to Sidney for them I wonder what sort of a cow we will get you must let us know Bonger [?] is doing and how black bess turned out we would give ~~is~~ four times the price of her for one like her hear for breading dear father and mother I will have to be draping I wish you may be able to make it out how I do long for a letter from you to hear how you are we are very happy at present but we will be far happier we think when we receive an answer to this but that will take patience M^r Malcolm desires me to send you his kind love Ferguson joins me with kind love and best wishes and beleieve us ever yours very affectionatly R and M^r Ferguson dear Sister I now will write you a few lines but the paper is nearly done [?] I hope you are well and still carring on with your teaching a Christy [...] your time and enjoy that blessed oppertunity so that you may at last say I have fought a good

fight I have finished my course I have kept the faith hence forth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness I hope dear Christy you will remember us to all our friends I have not room to state all names to all at Mount Annon and to all enquiring and intimate acquaintances tell Baby when she comes to bring Fergusons brown cap it was blown off his head one day so she must keep a good look out send us a long letter with all the news dear sister I have only seen 2 Kangaroos and that was after [...] one or two days sailed from Kangaroo Island but you will perhaps get the bones [?] by and by dear Christy in looking over my letter I see I have not told the babys name

[left hand margin is torn vertically down and several words are rendered indecipherable and other words overwrite the text] We with kind love and best wishes to you so believe us ever your affectionate Brother and Sister R W

[address page]

William Forsyth
Mount Annon
Dumfries Shire Annan
Scotland
NB

[Postmarks]

[in red ink]

7.NO.7

AU7

1837

[in black ink circled]

FX

7 AU 7

1837

[in a square] ½

[sealed with a red wax seal]

D 2685/4 letter D

Makgill South Australia

June 26 1836

My Dear parents, I have long delayed writing expecting a letter but I think letters must have been lost between us. which causes great uneasiness [?] to arise in the mind of all parties but dear parents and friends I am happy to inform you we are still spared and enjoying tolerable health at present I have had several dangerous attacks of inflammation [?] the last about three weeks go which I am just recovering from, Ferguson had a very bad fever about 10 weeks since so much so that his life was dispaired off but I am happy to inform you all he is quite stout and healthy which is beyond all gifts our Heavenly Father can bestowe on us poor worms of the earth dear friends I hope these few lines \now/ before me will reach you in safty and find you all enjoying the same Gift of God hoping to hear soon from you nothing my dear friends gives me more comfort than to hear of all your wellfares I often fancy I am at home for home sweet home I shall still call Mount Annan I may see it and may not that is all unknown too us if God thinks proper it would be good for us if we could resign our minds to our fates although far distant from one another in this world we have the great promises of meeting at a throne off grace if we seek we shall find provided we ask not amiss in and through Christ we find all.

[written across the top of page 1]

Ferguson joins in kind love to you all and informs all our friends at dolton [?] [*possibly Dalton*] and he will write in a few days we are wearing very sore for a letter it is long time since we had one I am afraid you are in the same state we have a Scottish Minister now arrived So good bye for the present and believe me ever your affectionate daughter Rosina Ferguson

[page 2]

Dear parents no doubt you have heard very disagreeable tidings of us lately believe me when I say it is not the case we have not taken the advantage of Sir James Malcolm in any way whatever neither of his son M^r William as has been stated by him to his father which S. James will find to be the case, he has been a great charge with little comfort or credit to either party. no one promised fairer than M^r Malcolm for four Months after our arrival in the Colony but what I thought sound and serious off him turned out to be but Arrtifical for he grew very fond of ardent spirits then swearing followed of which he practised to a great extent his chief associates were very dissapated characters Sow low. when I spoke to M^r Malcolm \the/ impropriety of accociating with such and living in such a manner this \answer/ he returned me often was he would answer for his own dowings or he was no worse than many others sometimes he was angry with me and s^d I had nothing to do with him what sort of a life he set [?] for their was only two places, is [?] Hevean & Hell My dear friends you may Easly fancy How an expression like that from a Gentlemanly birth did affect me indeed my dear friend it is beyond my power to explain the grief I have endured since I left my home on M^r Malcolm account, yet I have great

[page 3]

reason to be thankfull to God for Supporting us both with patience and forbearance towards him the command was from God and not of our selves for our own strength is nothing we have nothing but weakness and siin in all our best doings if Gods Spirit is not nigh us to direct \our/ steps we would inevitably fall I hope my dear friends if in a fortnight after this to write a letter with more contents of comfort for you and all but shrink not to make known to M^r Malcolms relation the contents of this for it is well enough \known/ to all here as well as to Sir James and M^{rs} Bardgett how he has acted both for himself and his father and behaved to us and all the Servants that come out it is too well known by all the Gentlemen that [?] was in the Colony for the first 12 Months if Ferguson had not acted as he did long ere this he would not had one single halfpenny not even Sir James land [word obliterated] he had the power to dispose of it flattery has a great [word obliterated] over him we are well aware he has had advisers not to his profit nor Comfort but we must hope for better times with all this Ferguson and M^r Malcolm never had high words but once we are on friendly terms and takes no notice of the letters he has lately received from home further than our feeling a little shagring and [?] having clear consciences God knows patience and time will show who has acted false and set all to rights I have wrote M^{rs} Bargdett a full explanation about every occurence amongst us so by writing to the Minister M^r Stevenson who has always been more like a father than a friend to us all and knows all our proceedings in all respects or any other principall Gentleman in the Colony the like to appoint to investigate our concern [?] we are well enough known the price [?] Dear Parents for the Gold that perished should we ruin our souls forever please God

[address page]

This letter is filled so soon that you must expect the news all in the next which I will Despatch in July please God to spare me till then I will send one or 2 papers along with this and all news in the next Robert Cock and Ferguson is still in partnership and has got on astonishingly well every thing the have Put their hands to has prospered yet adversity may be very nigh we left M^r Malcolm last August Ferguson still managing for him we have 680 aced Section in the County and other property Cows Bullocks Horses Pigs Poultry Mother Hens I sell at 10/ each fresh buter 3/6 per lb I think between 2 & 3 years we will return and see you [page torn] please God to spare us Isabella is a fine sharp girl now & [?] complete fathers Pet & very sensitive [page torn] very ortonised [?] when we speak of our fathers and Mothers and friend she says she will come and see you on the horse remember me to all enquiring friends and accept of one kiss and tata [from Isabella [written upside down on page 1 of this letter] ¥ she is still alone there has been 3 disappointments between 3 and 4 Months

M^r William Forsyth
Mount Annan
By Annan
Dumfries Shire NB

[Postmarks]

[in black ink] POST OFFICE ADELAIDE [Royal Crown device]

[in red ink] G 12DE12 1839

D 2685/5 letter E

Rosefield \[in pencil] Fullarton/ August 17th 1848

My Dear Sister & Brother/

We have just received 2 letters from you which I now take up my \pen/ to answer your last was March the 25 it has not been so long the other one dated Oct^r we only got shortly before I mean one from each of My Sisters 4 in all I have recevd which has animated our spirits But dear sister the account of your trials was very affecting it was a heavy Affliction But it was the Lord yes dear Sister it was our heavenly father who has chastised us all our hold is ~~very~~ of them is very feeble, it is a great trial for affectionate parents while folding in their arms the dying child they so tenderly love when we are giving our last blessing looking for the last time on that countenance now faded [?] and wasted which we once beheld with delight then is the time when our hearts are made to drink all the bitterness of human woe but we must not sorrow like those who have no hope but bear in mind it was Our heavenly Fathers will who hath promised to us to raise [?] us up other Comforts in place of those we have lost the prospect of meeting in a happier world this to me is often a great soother of Affliction a great balm to my heart it assist us to view death as no more than a temporary separation They whom we loved still live though not present to us they are I hope only removed into a different mansion in the house of our Heavenly Father their pilgrimage tho short is finished in due time I hope we will all meet together in these blissful habitations and untill that season of reunion arrive no principle of religion discourages our holding Correspondence of Affection with them by means of faith and hope I hope our affliction will be sanctified to us all before I received your first letter I was prepared for the news it contained, that the hand of God had been in your dwellings I told Ferguson so one morning I thought it would be my dear Mother but I did not anticipate, \it was/ your 3 little Lambs dear Mother and Sister you may think it very absurd of me saying I was ~~was~~ warned of the event though not exactly they ones but I can assure you all I have been aware of trials before they come this way [?] a year I will inform you of the one I had before,

[page 2]

NE

I lost my little boy, when I am nursing I allways make it a rule to read my Book while suckling baby which I can accomplish with composure ~~at this time~~ at that time I lifted one of the Childrens Hymn Books of which I read a few [?] while \reading/ one I felt quiet over come I felt a heaviness in my spirits I was sensible a trial awaited me he was then in perfect health Ferguson at that time was ailing a little I thought of him I will give you the verses v. 1st It is the Lord – enthroned in light, Whose claims are all divine; Who has an undisputed right To govern me and thine v 2 It is the Lord – should I distrust or contradict his will, Who cannot do but what is just and must be righteous still v 3 It is the Lord – who gives me all my wealth my friends my ease And of his bounties may recall What ever part he please v 4 It is the Lord – who can sustain Beneath the heaviest load From \whom/ assistance we obtain to tread the thorny road v 5 It is the Lord – whose matchles skill [?] can from affliction raise Mother eternity to fill with ever~~lasting~~ growing praise v 6 It is the \ Lord/ – My Covenant God , Thrice blessed be his name, Whose gracious promise, sealed with blood Must ever be the same v 7 His covenant Will my soul defend Should natures self expire, And the great Judge of all descend In awe full flames of fire v 8 And can my

soul with hopes like these be sullen or repine, No gracious God take what thou please to thee I all resign Dear Dear friends I sprung to my feet pressing my child to my bosom and exclaimed aloud O Lord forgive me I cannot say so/ I payed [*perhaps "prayed"*] for his Mercy Compassion and assistance of which I obtained and when the time arrived to say thy will be done O Father, I could/ dear friends I don't [...] if I told you the \text/ M^r Drumond had for his funeral sermon It was \St/ John Chapter 3 14 & 15 verses from which he was really beautiful M^r Daniel Ferguson one of our Elders was with us \in/ the forenoon and M^r Drumond in the after noon the day he died Comforting and Consoling us to the will of the Lord so you see though far from relations we are near to friends he died at half past four in after noon you wished to know [*know?*] if we had a good Minister I am happy to say we have one whom I consider to preach the pure Gospel and offers that Saviour who shed his precious blood for us all yes he preacher [*preached ?*] that Christ who promised the spirit to all that should beleive on him I must conclude this strain at present please God R.F

[page 3]

My dear Sister/ You say you know nothing of our affairs \temporally/ what we are doing I must try to inform you hoping this letter will arrive you will see by the News papers we sent some time ago the examination concernig the Mails (that is the letterbags) were [*?*] in hopes what has been done lately we will get our letters conveyed safe which will render a great happiness to \us/ all dear Sister this month 10 years ago we left Adelaide for Makgill where Cock and Ferguson had bought and paid 580 acre Sections at one £ per acre which was very heavily timbered labour was high provisions also at that time the rose to famine prices flour 8 and 9 £ for 200 lbs of flour we kept working on to better ourselves like all other speculating buying and selling giving and taking bills for which we have dearly paid When Gover Gawler asumed the reins of Gover ment he entered into a most lavish expenditure and having exhausted all the funds of the Colny his drafts on England wer at last dishonoured this threw the Colony into a sad state this disruption [*?*] to publik Credit put an end to private Credit debts was called in the effects of debtors sold of for what they would bring property of all kinds fell to one half or less of its former value and bankruptcy pervaded the Colony we lost a good many hundred pounds which to save [*?*] our selves expecting every year to get better enduced us to take a Mortgage on our land at 20 per cent but alas that was not to be for instead of \the/ crops making us all right by geting 3/ per Bushel it only brought 2 shillings and 6 spence which did not pay the expenses so in July 1844 – the Mortgagee had to get it for what we were due to him so this ended the whole affair so we left it with out one shilling belonging to it save our little traps of furniture and our Clothes by this time was pretty well exhausted and six years of labour gone for nothing in this same month 1844 Ferguson rented this Section which contains 1 hundred an 34 acres of good land with the privilege of purchase within seven years

[page 4]

Dear Sister you see we have not wanted our trials that is losses and crosses but in all this thank God we have had abundance of good food Ferguson is a man who is very much respected for his honesty and industry when at Makgill no one would summons him for what he was due they waited they all knew how he had strove to pay every man his own and did not with \hold/ one penny to himself and cheat others (all unknown to us a Number of his friends) for a friend in

need is a friend sure) bought him his riding Mare one team of Bullock 3 Cows and made me a present of Fifty Pounds to give us a fresh start in forming our new farm and I am happy to say we are getting now very comfortable no debts and a crop looking well we have 20 working Bullocks 4 4 Mares 3 draught [?] & Williams Old favourite 1 which he has had 11 years past now 3 Cows 4 young ones and a few pet sheep of the childrens pigs Geese Turkeys Ducks hens & Pigeons we have got our land all fenced in now and Garden fenced and is bussy at present diging it – it has \to be/ dug 18 inches or 2 feet deep before it does any good after that we have Peach trees Nectarines Apricots Plums Cherrys Apples Pears Figs and Grapes and Oranges we mean to put in if they do well we will have abundance of fruit and to spare in 2 years Our house is built of brick 36 feet by 26 containing 4 apartments 2 of which we have not got [?] plastered yet as we are going on as we are able we have 2 wells of water very good 1 is 75 feet deep the Other is 60 feet they are valuable last Summer we were 17 weeks without a shower and we have no dew our side of [?] the Mountains in Summer in winter we have plenty of rain it is winter just now with us as yet it has been very mild you wish us home and we often wish you here with all our trials and the are every where with Mortal man we have our Comforts also we are as while on earth tho [?] some distance from our Saviour and Chief Comforter the better we love and serve him the better our reward will be and is he is kind and mercyful knows our weakness how could we have survived all our ups and downs of our selves dear friends I have great joy in telling you all that Ferguson has had to struggle with he has always been the same as he was while with you I never knew him the worse of drink nor yet to swear nor has he ever since I was his wife given me

D 2685/6 Letter F

[letterhead]

Ink drawing of a building [*in pencil*] Court House erected in 1850

NEW COURT HOUSE

Adelaide



My dear Mother

Rosefield [*in pencil*] (sectn 251, Fullarton)

I now embrace the opportunity of writing you a few lines hoping you will receive it this is the 4th letter I have wrote Within this last twelve Month the last letter ~~account~~ x I received ~~was~~ x letter x was by George Carruthers they are all well I believe, dear Mother I long very much to hear from you I cannot make it out that our letters never goes and comes like others

[page 2]

I have likewise sent N papers I will send a packet just now, I hope Dear Mother this will reach and find you all enjoying tolerable good health which is one of Gods great Gifts I feel gratefull and Happy to inform you we are pretty well at present Our little boy is 15 Months \old/ on the 16th of this Month he has got 14 teeth they have tryed him very hard I have heard ~~my~~ \no / more accounts of Captain Ewart since he sailed for India he did not answer the letter we sent him at Londceston, dear mother I intend to register this letter and see if it will come it makes it very uncomfortable to both parties

[page 3]

being in this state of never getting \each/ Others letters I send a small present for you Dear Mother one for you and one for My Mother in Law William hopes to be able to send some yearly [?] for you and them he has a great deale to contend with first and last but I hope please God he will now do better he has been from home this last week he is out at Strathalbyn you will see by the papers which I send and please to remember us to All the rest and let them have a reading of them if they come Isabella and Rachel is at school in Adelaid they go in on Mondays Morning and comes home on friday Night, They all send their kind love to you dear Mother you will see by the papers such heavy rains and floods we however have great reason to be thankful we have not felt it in the least many a one was not aware of they situation untill their furniture was afloat in their houses you may fancy how they felt at Midnight to be awoke and all afloat in their house and all around them their has not been such a season for wet since

[page 4]

the season we came here last season was very dry I must now conclude with kind love to all and believe your sincerely [...] daughter R Ferguson

[addressee]

Mrs. William [?] Forsyth

Bryde kirk Village

all at Thomas Bell Bryde kirk Village

Dumfries Shire

NB

[sealed with a red wax seal]