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Morphett family

PRG 239  
Series List

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John Morphett was born in London in 1809, a son of Nathaniel Morphett and Mary, nee Gliddon. On leaving school he joined a business in London then took a position in Alexandria, Egypt. With his younger brother George he returned to England in 1834 and became interested in the prospect of a new colony in southern Australia based on E.G. Wakefield's principles. He sailed in the *Cygnets* and arrived in South Australia in September 1836 and aligned himself with the resident commissioner J.H. Fisher against Governor John Hindmarsh. In 1838 he married Fisher's daughter Elizabeth. In 1839 he helped in selecting six special surveys for English friends and the Secondary Towns Association. He supported many causes in the capital Adelaide. He was elected speaker of the Legislative Council in 1851 and won a place in the first elections under responsible government in 1857; he had several government appointments until he retired in 1873. He died at his residence *Cummins* at Morphettville in 1892.

His younger brother George was born in 1811 and went to Egypt in 1833 to join John there; from there they travelled through Egypt and Italy before returning to England in 1834. He married Ann Hitchcock in 1835. He took an interest in South Australian affairs, with mentions in the South Australian Company's reports and activities. He arrived in 1840 on the *Brightman*, and established a legal practice in Adelaide while residing in North Adelaide. He was involved in the pastoral industry and also acted as agent for others in numerous land transactions. He was an alderman of the Municipal Corporation of Adelaide 1842-1843, Member for the House of Assembly for the District of West Torrens 1860-1861 and a director of the South Australian Marine & Fire & Life Assurance Company, the Bank of South Australia and several mining companies. He returned to England in 1861 and died there in 1893.

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Business papers and receipts	1
1838-1858. 11 cm. 7 envelopes	
[Includes correspondence relating to financial matters, accounts rendered to George Morphett by various firms, cheques and notes to pay, working papers, bills of exchange and transfers of moneys remitted so that Morphett could invest in South Australia on others' behalf. A small part of the correspondence is between the captain and crew of the <i>Australian</i> steamship and the first-class passengers in August 1852. The series includes two additional groups of tradesmen's accounts, etc for goods supplied to him, formerly accessioned as V 1289 (1852-1854) and V 1304 (1841-1848), each with a contents list.]	

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Legal agreements 1841-1854. 8 cm. [Agreements mainly regarding the lease of land owned by George Morphett, but also including the sale of land. See special list for Series 2 for details.]	<u>2</u>
Share scrip 1850. 9 cm. [Share scrip for the <i>Adelaide Stone Quarry &amp; Mine Company</i> (South Australia), all issued on 1 January 1850. Numbers run from 1 to 250 and 902 to 1100 inclusive.]	<u>3</u>
Documents appointing power of attorney 1852-1853. 4 cm. [Assignment of power of attorney to George Morphett, enabling him to buy and sell on others' behalf. Names of those granting such authority include John Montefiore the younger and Thomas Watts (1852); Michael Stocks (1852); Henry Walker and Thomas Brick (1853).]	<u>4</u>
Bank books of account 1839-1854. 5 cm. [Account books held by George Morphett with various banks, including 2 accounts with the London and Westminster Bank 1839-1840 and 1851-1852; 2 accounts with the South Australian Bank Company, Adelaide 1850 & 1852; and 2 accounts with the Bank of South Australia, 1847-1849 and 1853-1854.]	<u>5</u>
Cheque book butts 1846-1854. 3 cm. [Butts for the period 1846-1854 including 18 books, most of which only cover a few months, but one which spans the period 1852-1854. Many detail not only the payee and amount, but also what the money was for.]	<u>6</u>
Cash books and financial records 1841-1854. [See special list for series 7 for details.]	<u>7</u>
Diaries of George Morphett 1847, 1852. 2 cm. [Both in leather covers.]	<u>8</u>

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Document relating to Supreme Court case 1843. 0.5 cm [Document detailing plaintiff's costs in the Supreme Court case of Morphett vs. Alston on 18 March 1843.]	<u>9</u>
List of subscribers nd. 0.5 cm [List of subscribers for a testimonial to Captain Hoseason. (See also series 1.)]	<u>10</u>
Disclaimer of Trusteeship 1844. 0.5 cm. [Attested copy of disclaimer by P.S. Duval of Trusteeship under Will of Lewis Duval, 14 November 1844.]	<u>11</u>
Report to shareholders 1852. 0.5 cm. [Half-yearly report to shareholders in the South Australian Mining Association (printed), 20 October 1852.]	<u>12</u>
School report 1852. 0.5 cm. [Report for Nathaniel George Morphett from Sir Roger Cholmeleys's Grammar School, Highgate, 10 September 1852.]	<u>13</u>
Paper on history of Mount Barker 1939. 0.5 cm. [Written by George Cummins Morphett on the early history of Mount Barker district. (Formerly A 893)]	<u>14</u>
Letters from George Morphett and his father Nathaniel to John Morphett in S.A. 1835-1843. 2 cm. [Includes correspondence and papers relating to the land agency conducted by John Morphett, and letters from George Morphett, before his arrival in S.A., and their father Nathaniel, commenting on South Australian affairs. See Special List for Series 15 for further details. (Formerly V 1192)] OUTSIZE (small cabinet)	<u>15</u>

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- Extracts from the letters of John Morphett 16  
1836. 0.5 cm.  
[Extracts from letters of 14 September (Nepean Bay Kangaroo Island), 21 September (American River), 22 September (Hog Bay, west end of Kangaroo Island) & 28 September (Backstairs Passage, on board schooner *John Pirie*) 1836. The letters are printed [?] on a linen-like material. (Formerly D 6187(L))]
- Letter from John Morphett 17  
1835. 0.5 cm.  
[Letter written from the address of the North & South American Coffee House, 26 June 1835, wherein he proposes himself as the agent for the selection and purchase of land in the Province of South Australia. He also alludes to the benefits for first purchasers and comparative values in neighbouring colonies. (Formerly D 6967(L))]
- Letter from Sir John Morphett to his son John Cummins Morphett 18  
1888. 0.5 cm.  
[Written from *Cummins*, Morphettville, about his early work for South Australia and the people with whom he worked. (Formerly D 7740(L)).]
- Notes on the character of Sir John Morphett by his daughter Ada Fisher Ayers 19  
1936. 0.5 cm. Typescript.  
[As told to her daughter Lucy Lockett Ayers 22 July 1936. (Formerly A 782)]
- Land grant to John Morphett 20  
1837 OUTSIZE 7  
Grant of Town Acre 663, last acre but one on the east end of South Terrace, Adelaide, 23 December 1837, signed by J.H. Fisher, Commissioner of Public Lands and Osmond Gilles, Treasurer, for payment of £8.0.0 sterling. On verso of front page is Memorandum relating to conveyance of portion of east side of Town Acre with 62 feet frontage to South Terrace, to David Devine, made 31 October 1845. Formerly A 1010.

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Letter to George Morphett  
1853. Handwritten  
From Thomas Parkinson, Halifax, England , written  
21 November 1853, relating to Burra Burra mining  
shares and mining matters. [formerly A 1019]

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