

George Gawler (1795-1869) was South Australia's second Governor, arriving in the colony on the *Pestonjee Bomanjee* with his mother, wife and five children on 12 October 1838<sup>1</sup>. His appointment followed a long period of service in the 52nd (Oxfordshire) Regiment, in which he obtained a commission as Ensign in 1810 and had risen to Major in 1831 before his departure from the Regiment on promotion to an unattached Lieutenant Colonelcy in 1834<sup>2</sup>.

Gawler's administration as Governor embraced a most difficult period in the colony's development and his recourse to extraordinary expenditure in an attempt to resolve these difficulties led to the censure of his actions and ultimate recall in May 1841. While many of the colonists approved of Gawler's actions, and attested to their confidence in his administration in a number of memorials and a testimonial prior to his departure from the colony, the weight of official opinion in England was against him, and only many years later was his administration impartially assessed and many of his measures vindicated. Following his departure from South Australia in June 1841, Gawler returned with his family to England, where he remained until his death in 1869. He was made a Colonel in the British Army in 1846, but resigned his commission in 1850<sup>3</sup>.

Samuel Gawler, George Gawler's father, obtained a commission as Ensign in the 73rd (Highland) Regiment in 1794, and was promoted to Lieutenant in 1796. He was killed in battle in 1804, in consideration of which his wife Julia (subsequently Mrs. Hutchinson) was awarded a pension in 1828<sup>4</sup>.

Maria Cox (1796-1870) married George Gawler in September 1820, and went with him and her daughters Julia, Jane Cox and Katherine and sons Henry and John Cox to South Australia in 1838, where she was active in local religious, educational and philanthropic activities throughout Gawler's tenure as Governor. Her eldest daughter Julia married George Hall and remained in South Australia after the family's departure in 1841<sup>5</sup>.

Douglas G. Gawler (1860-1915), the son of George Gawler's eldest son Henry, who returned to South Australia in 1858 as solicitor to the Lands Titles Office, was educated in South Australia and qualified there for the bar, but emigrated to Western Australia in 1886 where he practised as a barrister and solicitor and was a member of the Legislative Council from 1910 until his death in 1915<sup>6</sup>.

The papers in this collection were largely donated by the descendants of George Gawler, principally by Mrs. P.B. Warcup (grand-daughter of Julia Gawler), Dr. Douglas R. Gawler (grand son of Henry Gawler) and Miss L.C.G. Poulden (daughter of Katherine Gawler). Much of the material relates to the Gawler family history, but there is also considerable material illustrating the early history of South Australia, notably the letters of Maria Gawler and children, 1838-41, (Series 19) Julia Gawler's diary of the expedition to Mount Bryan in December 1839 (Series 24) and the memorials received by Gawler relating to his administration and recall, which contain signatures of many early colonists (Series 10-12).

In addition to the written records, the pictorial material is of great value and interest, particularly the early water colours by Governor Gawler and J.M. Skipper, the pen drawings of George Hamilton, and the 1837 lithographs of Government House, Gilles Arcade and the Southern Cross Hotel.

### References

- (1) James C. Hawker *Early Experiences in South Australia* (Adelaide, 1899) p.3. For an account of the voyage, see letters of Maria Gawler and Julia Gawler to Mrs. John Cox, in PRG 50/19.
- (2) PRG 50/2; A.Grenfell Price *Founders and Pioneers of South Australia* (Adelaide, 1929) p.140-144.
- (3) Price, op.cit., p.146-165; *Australian Dictionary of Biography* (Melbourne, 1966) vol. 1 p.431-435; Davies (obituary notices) v.4 p.142-145 (including a letter from J.B. Hack, 8 July 1869); PRG 50/11 and PRG 50/2.
- (4) Price, op.cit., p.140; PRG 50/17-18.
- (5) See letters of Maria Gawler to Mrs. John Cox and Miss Jane Cox, in PRG 50/19.
- (6) Unidentified newspaper cuttings, undated (obituary of Henry Gawler) and 21 May 1915 (obituary of Douglas G. Gawler), in PRG 50/29.

### Papers of George Gawler

School copy-book. 1804. 1 item. Formerly A816.	1
Commissions in the 52nd (Oxfordshire) Regiment and as a Colonel. 1810-47. 5 items. Formerly part D3469.	2
Miscellaneous papers relating to army service and decorations. 1811-49. 7 items. Formerly part D3469.	3
Instructions as Governor and Commander-in-chief of the Province of South Australia. 19 May 1838. 1 item. Formerly part D3233.	4
Appointment as Commissioner of Lands, in lieu of J.H. Fisher. 25 May 1838. 1 item. Formerly part D3233.	5
Letters received. 1838-49. 3 items. (George Hall re anticipated arrival <i>Pestonjee Bomanjee</i> at Plymouth, 1 June 1838; E.J. Eyre re expedition into the interior, 28 August 1841; John Alsop re silver mining at Glen Osmond,	6

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20 July 1849). Formerly A818, A813. and A1206.	
Memorial to Gawler from the officers of Government and inhabitants of Adelaide and vicinity upon his accession to office. 17 October 1838. 1 item. Formerly D3233.	7
Letter of Lord Russell, Secretary of State for the Colonies, advising Gawler of his recall as Governor of South Australia. 26 December 1840. 1 item. Formerly part D3469.	8
Letter by Gawler to Capt. Grey advising him of his recall. 12 May 1841. 1 item. Formerly part D3469.	9
Letter received by Gawler from Lord Raglan (transcript). 1845. 1 item. Typescript (P201).	9A
Memorial relating to resolutions passed at a public meeting of 3 May 1841 requesting Gawler to take certain action to ensure the solvency of the Colony. With c.750 signatures of persons endorsing the resolutions. May 1841. 1 item. Formerly part D3233. 1 <sup>st</sup> 3 pages located (of introduction and resolutions). Appears to be missing at least one more page. Signatures approx. 943 housed with S.11/1-. Cannot be sure whether they belong with 10 or 11.	10
Memorials presented to Gawler following repudiation by the Colonization Commissioners of Bills drawn by him and upon his recall and prior to his departure from South Australia, from various sections of the community. May 1841. 10 items. See Special List. Formerly part D3233 and A747 and A948-950.	11
List of subscribers to the fund for the purchase of a testimonial to Gawler. 22 June 1841. 1 item. Formerly part D3233.	12
Photographs of Gawler (April 1863), his wife, his headstone at Portsmouth Cemetery, and the memorial erected in his honour. April 1863 and undated. 4 items. 3 views on same sheet from Mr. T.E. Poulden. (Tsf. P201). Source of other items unknown.	13
Portraits of Gawler and his wife by Edward Lear (photographic copies). 1837. 2 items. Copies from colour photographs received in 1982 by Mr. S.C. Dawes from Mr. T.E. Poulden, the owner of the original oil paintings.	13A

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Extraordinary sheet issued by the <i>Register</i> relating to the safety of members of the Mount Bryan expedition. In reply to a statement in the <i>Southern Australian</i> asserting that serious fears were entertained for the safety of the Governor and his party. 26 December 1839. 1 item. Formerly part D3233.	14
Proclamation by Gawler regarding the "outrage" committed by aborigines near Port Lincoln. 17 October 1840. 3 items. 2 copies formerly part D3233, one copy formerly part D3469.	15
Copies of the <i>South Australian Gazette</i> . 23 July, 31 July, 6 August 1840. 3 items. Formerly part D3469.	16
Season tickets of Col. and Mrs. Gawler for the 1851 Exhibition in London. 1851. 2 items. Electrostatic copies. Lent for copying by Mrs. Desiree Warcup. P446.	16A
Commissions in the 73rd Highland Regiment. 1794, 1796. 2 items. Formerly part D3469.	17
War Office notification of a pension to Mrs. S. Gawler following the death of Samuel Gawler, killed in action in 1804. 30 July 1828. 1 item. Formerly part D3469	18
<b>Papers of Maria (Mrs. George) Gawler and children</b>	
Letters of Maria Gawler, Julia Gawler, Henry Gawler and John Cox Gawler to their relatives in England. 1838-41. 21 items. Originals and type written copies. See Special List. Formerly part D3233 and accessions A622 and A805-812.	19
Extracts from Maria Gawler's diary of engagements. 7-20 October 1838. 4 items (2 copies) and 3p. explanatory notes. Photo prints. Formerly A951 and part D3233.	20
Letter of Augustus Kavel to Mrs. Gawler, accompanying the gift of a basket of vegetables. 23 May 1839. 1 item. Formerly A817.	21
Photograph of portrait of Maria Gawler. n.d. 1 item. Formerly part D3233.	22
Genealogical notes by Maria Gawler. n.d. 2 items. Formerly A815 and part A622.	23

Diary of Julia Gawler written during the expedition under  
Sturt to Mount Bryan, 22 November - 25 December 1839.  
Together with typescript copy, and an account of the expedition,  
incorporating extracts from the diary, written by Muriel Gray  
(grand-daughter of Julia Gawler).  
n.d. 3 items. Formerly A804. 24

Diary of Maria Gawler. 24A  
1838. 1v. Electrostatic copy, slightly enlarged.  
Lent for copying by Mrs Desiree Warcup. P446.

### **Papers of Douglas G. Gawler**

Letter of Douglas Gawler to his mother. 25  
n.d. 1 item. Formerly part D3469.

Letter from Henry Gawler to Mary Gawler (wife of Douglas Gawler) 26  
congratulating her and her husband on the birth of a son.  
October 1894. 1 item. Formerly part D3469

Certificate of election of Douglas Gawler to the French Academy. 27  
1 May 1911. 1 item. Formerly part D3469

Draft of letter by Douglas Gawler to W.H. Jones regarding the 28  
early closing of hotels issue.  
1 April (no year). 1 item. Formerly part D3469.

Newspaper cuttings regarding the Gawler and related families, 29  
particularly the parliamentary career of Douglas G. Gawler.  
1857-1918 and undated. 1v.  
Also includes miscellaneous historical notes. The items  
listed separately as series 25-28 have been removed from this  
volume. Formerly part D3469

### **Miscellaneous (see also series 41-42)**

Notes on the *Pestonjee Bomanjee* and its passengers on the 30  
voyage to South Australia, June - October 1838. n.d. 1 item.  
Apparently compiled by Mrs. J. Doudney, a grand-daughter of  
George Gawler. Source uncertain, possibly part D3222.

Commission of Robert Russell as Captain in the 18th Regiment 31  
of Light Dragoons.  
26 January 1814. 1 item. Formerly part D3469.

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Calling card of E.J. Eyre. n.d. 1 item. Formerly A815. Received with other papers donated by a descendant of George Gawler.	32
Corrections made during a recorded interview by Desiree' Warcup (great grand-daughter of Col. George Gawler) to PRG 50 series list. Interview conducted by K. Patitsas. 23 Dec. 1983. 1 cassette c90. 5mins.	33A
<b>Pictorial</b>	
Watercolour sketches of various South Australian locations, by George Gawler and J.M. Skipper. 1839-40 and undated. 9 items. See Special List. Formerly part D3233.	34
Pencil sketch of Glenelg, by Julia Gawler, 13 October 1838. With copy by Mrs. Poulden. 1900. 2 items. Original P202; copy formerly part D3233	35
Pen drawings by George Hamilton, depicting (1) the departure of E . J . Eyre upon his expedition across Australia and (2) a distribution of flour to aborigines at Moorundie. n.d. (1840-41). 2 items. Formerly part D3233.	36
Lithographs by Col. William Light, J. Hitchen and S. Calvert and unsigned (after sketches attributed to Mary Hindmarsh). 1837 and undated. 8 items. Formerly part D3233. See special list.	37
Photographs of sketches of Adelaide and vicinity, by F.R. Nixon. 1845. 11 items. From a set of 12 views.	38
Map of Australia, showing the route of Eyre across the Continent. With pencil annotations. Arrowsmith, 1845. 1 item.	39
Photograph of Gawler's signet ring and crest, and photograph of his sword. Photographed in 1982. 2 items.	40

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### Further miscellaneous items

Correspondence between J. Edward Poulden, great grandson of George Gawler, and Mr. Sean C. Dawes. 1981-82. 15 items. P201.	41
Biographical notes written by Mrs. Desiree Warcup. 1984. 2p.	42
Watercolour drawing of a medal with an accompanying note which reads: "K.H. page 17 - order II of enclosed book. Nec aspera terrant. 'They will not be afraid of the rough things of life' or I that effect." n.d. 1 item.	43
Royal warrant and seal granted to George Gawler, appointing him as Governor of South Australia. 1838. 1 item.	44