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WILLIAM HOLDEN

PRG 610  
Series List

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William Holden was an educated, kindly, and gifted man, who in 1841, unable to find suitable work in the city, bought from Jacob Pitman an allotment from his land grant (Section 824) near the track over the mountains which is now the Grand Junction Road. There, he established a store and a butcher shop, and a little farm. He had some knowledge of the German language, and was able to act as interpreter and spokesman for the German settlers moving into the area from nearby Klemzig. He gave the township thus formed its name, "Hope Valley", now a suburb in the district of Tea Tree Gully. Having one day gone to Adelaide, he came home to find that his home, store and shop had been reduced to ashes by a bushfire, which had also destroyed other local homes. "But", he wrote afterwards, "I could not somehow feel despondent. On the contrary, I felt inspired by hope -hence the name". He rebuilt, and his optimism encouraged others to do the same. He became a leader in the little community; he promoted the first school, and when it was built in 1849, he gave one acre of land, to be divided into three parts, one for a school, one for a cemetery, and the third for a parking area for the horses serving both, and a play ground for the children. The present-day cemetery on the Grand Junction Road, nearly opposite Parcoola Avenue, extends over the whole area. In the same year, he became the first Hope Valley Postmaster.

Early in 1851 Mr. Holden's wife, Sally, was killed in a fall from a horse. Mr. Holden left Hope Valley in November, and joined the staff of the Adelaide Register. Almost immediately, owing to the depression and the 'yellow fever' he found himself the only reporter left in Adelaide. His successor in the farm and business at Hope Valley was E.G. Day, who also became the postmaster and the third schoolmaster there. William Holden later in life became Vice-President of the Royal Astronomical Society of South Australia. He had re-married, in c.1854-55. In March, 1896, aged nearly 88, he was knocked down by a cab. He never returned to work at his office, but on partial recovery continued his literary contributions to his newspaper from his home. He died aged 892, on October 11, 1897 [based on I.A. Robinson's A History of the New Church in Australia, 1832-1980].

Note: The papers in this group are electrostatic copies of research material compiled by Mrs. Diane Roberts. Many of the letters in series 2 and 3 are of poor quality, a result of poor quality originals. Typed transcripts of many of the letters are included.

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| 'History of Australia' written by William Holden's son John.<br>Photostat copy. n.d. 3cm. Manuscript.<br>(NB. some pages missing from original).   | 1 |
| Letters to John Holden and family (in America) from William Holden and family<br>(in South Australia). Photostat copies. Indexed. 1862-1870. 0.5cm.  | 2 |
| Letters to John Holden and family (in America) from William Holden and family<br>(in South Australia). Photostat copies. Indexed. 1861-1890. 4.5cm.<br>Some of the more illegible ones have been transcribed.<br>[Part 1: 1861-1862; Part 2: 1863-1864; Part 3: 1866-1869; Part 4: 1870-1876;<br>Part 5: 1882-1883; Part 6: 1885-1886; Part 7: 1887; Part 8: 1888-1890]. | 3 |
| Research notes compiled by Diane Roberts, comprising chronologically<br>arranged data from 1860-1892. 1cm. Photostat copy.   | 4 |