

## BELCHES Family

Peter Belches was born in Scotland in 1796. He entered the naval service on 2 February 1812. He was a midshipman on *HMS Volage*, which was anchored in Sydney Harbour in December 1826. He was promoted to Third Lieutenant on *HMS Success*, under Sir James Stirling, and arrived in the colony of Swan River, Western Australia, in March 1827. Once arrived, Belches was part of the land-party to explore the Swan and Canning Rivers, before sailing south to Cape Geographe.

A peninsula on the southern side of the Swan River was named 'Point Belches' in his honour, by Sir James Stirling.

In 1834, Belches migrated to the Swan River Colony on the ship *James Patterson*. He took up land at Albany and served as Harbour Master at King George Sound from 1834 until 1837. He later served as temporary magistrate and was part of surveyor Hillman's exploration party.

He entered into a land partnership with George Cheyne and in 1852, the two prospected for gold in the Stirling Range. Belches left the Colony in 1858, returning to England in 1864, he died in 1890. His eldest son, Richard, remained in Australia, returning to Albany in 1866.

MN	ACC	meterage / boxes	Date donated	CIU file	Notes
586	303A		1945	BA/OM/20/0261	
	337A		March 1950		
	3881A		July 1989		
SUMMARY OF CLASSES					
CORRESPONDENCE					

REQUEST USING THIS NUMBER	DATE RANGE	DESCRIPTION
<b>Acc</b>		CORRESPONDENCE
303A/1-3 MICROFILM	13 June 1834	Inward. From LB Sheratt aboard the <i>James Pattison</i> . Numbers 1-3
303A/4 MICROFILM	April 1837	To Bessie Bussell
303A/5 MICROFILM	n.d.	To Mrs Bussell
303A/6 MICROFILM	n.d.	To "Mothery"
303A/6 MICROFILM	n.d.	To Fanny Bussell

REQUEST USING THIS NUMBER	DATE RANGE	DESCRIPTION
3881A/1 MICROFILM	23 September [1863].	To Dick, his son, written from Anderton by Peter Belches after Richard had left for South Australia Original 2 folios
3881A/2 MICROFILM	1 October [1863]	To Dick, his son, written by Peter Belches from Anderton. Richard to sail to South Australia on the <i>Peterborough</i> Original 1 folio
3881A/3 MICROFILM	24 December 1863	To Dick from his father PB Original 1 folio
3881A/4 MICROFILM	22 January 1864	To 'My dear son' from his mother, MC Belches. He has been gone 4 months and they have not heard from him Original 2 folios
3881A/5 MICROFILM	24 February 1864	To 'My dear son' from his mother, MC Belches. Still no news from Richard Original 2 folios
3881A/6 MICROFILM	18 March 1864	To Dick from his father Peter Belches. Have received his letters from South Australia. Working for Mr Elder and is to go to work on a sheep station Original 2 folios
3881A/7 MICROFILM	21 March 1864	To 'My dearest son' from Mary Belches and an added note from his father PB Original 3 folios
3881A/8 MICROFILM	25 May 1864	to 'My dearest son' from Mary Belches Original 2 folios
3881A/9 MICROFILM	25 June 1864	To 'My dearest son' from Mary Belches Original 1 folio
3881A/10 MICROFILM	23 July 1864	To Dick from his father PB Original 1 folio
3881A/11 MICROFILM	24 September 1864	To 'My dearest son' from Mary Belches. Much advice and religious sentiments Original 3 folios
3881A/12 MICROFILM	24 September 1864	To 'My dearest brother' from his sister Joanie, written from Anderton Original 1 folio
3881A/13 MICROFILM	25 October 1864	To 'My dearest brother' from his sister Bessie. Family news Original 1 folio
3881A/14 MICROFILM	24 November 1864	To Dick from his father PB and a note from his sister Bessie Original 1 folio
3881A/15 MICROFILM	24 November 1864	To 'My dearest son' from his mother Mary Belches. Richard had visited Adelaide Original 3 folios
3881A/16 MICROFILM	24 December 1864	To Dick from his father PB Original 1 folio
3881A/17 MICROFILM	25 January 1865	To 'My dearest son' from Mary Belches at Anderton Original 3 folios
3881A/18 MICROFILM	24 February 1865	To 'My dearest son' from Mary Belches who was grieved to hear that Richard, her son, had been very ill Original 2 folios

REQUEST USING THIS NUMBER	DATE RANGE	DESCRIPTION
3881A/19 MICROFILM	24 February 1865	To Dick from his father P Belches. Writes hoping that Richard (Dick) is feeling better Original 1 folio
3881A/20 MICROFILM	25 February 1865	To 'My dearest brother' from his sister Bessie. Also comments on his illness. More family news Original 1 folio
3881A/21 MICROFILM	24 March 1865	To 'My dearest son' from his mother Mary Belches Original 3 folios
3881A/22 MICROFILM	25 March 1865	To Dick from his father P Belches. Hopes Dick's health is improving Original 1 folio
3881A/23 MICROFILM	24 April 1865	To 'My dearest son' from Mary Belches Original 2 folios
3881A/24 MICROFILM	24 April 1865	To Dick from P Belches Original 1 folio
3881A/25 MICROFILM	25 April 1865	To 'My dearest Dick from his cousin ME - ? Written from Anderton Original 2 folios
3881A/26 MICROFILM	25 May 1865	To 'My dearest son' from Mary Belches (incomplete) Original 1 folio
3881A/27 MICROFILM	25 May 1865	To Dick from P Belches. Comments on Dick's trip to Adelaide Original 1 folio
3881A/28 MICROFILM	24 June 1865	To 'My dearest son' from Mary Belches Original 3 folios
337A/1 MICROFILM	24 July 1864	To Dick, his son, written at Devonport
3881A/29 MICROFILM	25 July 1865	To 'My dearest son' from Mary Belches. His mother is chiding him about his misconduct and she suspects that he gambles Original 2 folios
3881A/30 MICROFILM	11 August 1866	To 'Dear Mr Belches' – a letter written from Adelaide, South Australia presumably to Richard (Dick) Belches Original 1 folio
3881A/31 MICROFILM	25 August 1865	To 'My dearest son' from Mary Belches Original 1 folio
3881A/32 MICROFILM	25 August 1865	To Dick from his sister Joanie Original 1 folio
337A/2 MICROFILM	25 August 1865	To Dick, his son, written at Devonport
3881A/33 MICROFILM	24 September 1865	To Dick from his sister Bessie. Mentions Montague Ommanney being in Plymouth, and being appointed to the <i>Greyhound</i> Original 1 folio
3881A/34 MICROFILM	25 September 1865	To 'My dearest son' from Mary Belches (incomplete) Original 1 folio
3881A/35 MICROFILM	24 October 1865	To 'My dearest son' from Mary Belches (incomplete) Original 1 folio

REQUEST USING THIS NUMBER	DATE RANGE	DESCRIPTION
3881A/36 MICROFILM	25 October 1865	to Dick from P Belches. Peter Belches expresses his disappointment at Dick's behaviour and his proposal to set himself up at King George Sound Original 1 folio
3881A/37 MICROFILM	25 November 1865	To 'My dearest son' from Mary Belches. Dick now at King George Sound Original 2 folios
3881A/38 MICROFILM	25 November 1865	To Dick from his sister Bessie who expressed her surprise at Dick being in Albany Original 1 folio
3881A/39 MICROFILM	9 January 1866	To 'Dear Belches' from M Graham of King George's Sound, Western Australia. Dreadful drought around Albany and the South West Original 1 folio
3881A/40 MICROFILM	[n.d.]	Addressed to Richard Belches Esq. Albany Original 1 envelope
3881A/41 MICROFILM	[n.d.]	To 'My dearest Brother' from Bessie Belches. Asks him for Australian stamps Original 1 folio
3881A/42 MICROFILM	[n.d.]	Monday. To 'My dear Richard' from his mother, Mary Belches Original 1 folio
3881A/43 MICROFILM	[n.d.]	To 'My dearest Dick' from his sister Janie. Thanks him for a letter written from Western Australia. Tells him that his parents are dreadfully grieved that he has left Mr Elder in South Australia and gone to King George's Sound to look for employment Original 1 folio
3881A/44 MICROFILM	[n.d.]	To dick from Jessie Trimmer, a friend written from Strawberry Hill, King George's Sound, Albany Original 2 folios
3881A/45 MICROFILM	[n.d.]	To Dick from Jessie Trimmer, Strawberry Hill, King George's Sound, Albany Original 1 folio
3881A/46 MICROFILM	16 December [n.d.]	To Dick from his sister Jeannie Original 1 folio
3881A/47 MICROFILM	1 September [n.d.]	To 'Dear Belche' from FBI – at Mount Description, SA. Writes about farmers deserting their properties. Wishes him success if he goes to Western Australia Original 1 folio

Wikipedia: [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Peter\\_Belches](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Peter_Belches)

Albany Public Library:

[http://history.albany.wa.gov.au/index.php?option=com\\_ahc&task=details&id=70077](http://history.albany.wa.gov.au/index.php?option=com_ahc&task=details&id=70077)

A Naval biographical dictionary: <http://archive.org/details/cu31924027921372>

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