

SPENCER, Sir Richard (1779-1839)

Sir Richard Spencer (1779-1839), naval officer and settler, was born on 9 December 1779, the only son of Richard Spencer, a London merchant. At 14 he entered the navy as a midshipman, serving in Channel patrols and later on North American and West Indian Stations. Transferred to the Mediterranean at 21, he was promoted lieutenant in the captured French *Guillaume Tell*. In the brig *Camelion* he commanded a unit of a gunboat patrol for some years, once guarding a flank of the British army at Aboukir Bay. Early in 1808, he was appointed commander of the corvette *Samarang* on the East Indies Station, where his service in the subjection of Amboina and adjacent islands brought promotion to command the *Blanche*, and post rank early in 1812. Soon afterwards he went on half pay until June 1815 when he was appointed captain of the *Eurydice* on the Irish Station.

On 31 August 1812 Spencer married Ann Warden Liddon of Charmouth, Dorset. When his naval career ended in 1817 he settled with his wife on a farm at Lyme Regis, Dorset, for seventeen years, during which nine of their ten children were born. In 1833 he was appointed K.C.H. and government resident of Albany, Plantagenet district of Western Australia, on the recommendation of Sir James Stirling.

Albany's development in the next six years was largely due to Spencer's administrative skill, energy and determination. As well as performing his judicial duties as local representative of the government he superintended public works, native welfare, police, and surveys. Records tell of official duties performed with the efficiency, zeal and probity born of his naval training which often irked some settlers. His own affairs also prospered. On arrival he bought Strawberry Hill; to its six cleared acres (2.4 ha) he added 1400 virgin acres (567 ha) and the existing wattle and daub dwelling he enlarged with two-storied additions.

Spencer died suddenly at Strawberry Hill on 24 July 1839. His grave, as he wished, overlooked King George Sound. He was survived by his wife, who in spite of a reduced income contrived to maintain great style and gracious hospitality. Lady Spencer died in 1855.

Source: *Australian Dictionary of Biography*, <http://adb.anu.edu.au/biography/spencer-sir-richard-2685>

MN	ACC	meterage / boxes	Date donated	CIU file	Notes
125	320A	1 cm	before 1945		
	557A	1 cm	October 1955		
	738A	1 cm	n.d.		
	1044A		January 1962		Lent for copying-microfilm
	1200A		1963		Lent for copying-microfilm
	1201A		1963		Lent for copying-microfilm
	2337A/8	3 cm	[1974]		On indefinite loan
	6180A	3 cm	1985		
	9423A	8 cm	2005		

SUMMARY OF CLASSES

The collection contains various items such as correspondence, letter books, journals, photocopies of papers from the Public Records Office in the United Kingdom, photographs and registers - some items are on microfilm

REQUEST THIS NUMBER	DATE RANGE	DESCRIPTION
		CORRESPONDENCE
ACC 320A	1833-1837, 1839-1840.	Annotated typescript copies of letters written by Sir Richard & Lady Spencer
ACC 557A	1837-1839	Transcript copies of letters written by Sir Richard & Lady Spencer
ACC 738A	1833-1840	Transcript copies of letters written by Sir Richard & Lady Spencer and their son Hugh Seymour Spencer
ACC 1200A/1 MICROFILM	21 July 1834 – 26 November 1834	Copies of letters sent by Sir Richard Spencer from Albany. Also contains entry for marriage of Matthew Gill to Mary Newell on 18 September 1834 performed by Sir Richard Spencers, as Government resident at Albany 1 volume
ACC 1200A/2 MICROFILM	22 September 1834 – 31 December 1836	Containing copies of letters sent by Sir Richard Spencer from Albany concerning lime kilns on South side of Princess Royal Harbour 1 volume
ACC 6180A/1 See ACC 1200A/2		Original of ACC 1200A/2
ACC 1200A/2a MICROFILM	1832-1834	Copy of Lands and Surveys Department, location register for Albany (with some small additions)
ACC 1200A/3 MICROFILM	1815	Commission as Captain of HM Ship "Erne"
ACC 1200A/4 MICROFILM	1812-1828	Account with Arbuthnut & Co. listing payments and receipts made on his behalf
ACC 1200A/5 MICROFILM	1838	Official permission from Admiralty to go to Western Australia and for 2 years leave from the RN on half pay, 1833. Renewal for further 2 years
ACC 1200A/6 MICROFILM	18 January 1834	Account from Edward Henty for goods bought by Sir Richard Spencer
ACC 1200A/7 MICROFILM	18 February 1835	Mortgage of house and allotment in Albany by Henry Townsend to Sir Richard Spencer
ACC 1200A/8 MICROFILM	n.d.	Schedule of goods brought by ship "Governor Stirling" for Sir Richard Spencer
ACC 1200A/9 MICROFILM	1 June 1838	Letter from Sir Richard Spencer to Sergeant Philip Baker requesting military escort for his son to bring a horse from Williams to Albany
ACC 1200A/10 MICROFILM	7 January 1839	Letter from Colonial Secretary to Sir Richard Spencer concerning title to 587 acres of land in Plantagenet District
ACC 1200A/11 MICROFILM		Certificate of payment by Sir Richard Spencer (Govt. Res. Albany) to John Mason of £12.10.0d as salary as constable and keeper of the gaol at Albany from 1 October 1837 to 31 December 1837
ACC 1200A/12 MICROFILM	30 January 1839	Title for Location B17 at Albany issued to Laurence Nairne by Sir Richard Spencer, Government Resident
ACC 1200A/13 MICROFILM	24 April 1834	Permission to occupy Building Allotment S. No. 3 in Albany, issued to Charles Degraes
ACC 1200A/14 MICROFILM	1836-1838	Journal of Sir Richard Spencer (ACC 1200A/14 filmed after 1202A)
ACC 6180A/2 See ACC 1200A/14		Original of ACC 1200A/14

REQUEST THIS NUMBER	DATE RANGE	DESCRIPTION
ACC 1044A/1 MICROFILM		Letter book of R. Spencer (in 2 sections) One end: received 17 July 1810 – 28 June 1834, Other end: sent 24 August 1810 – 5 October 1840
ACC 1044A/2 MICROFILM		Letterbook of R. Spencer while at Lyme Regis 30 August 1818 – 16 March 1882 [1 letter: 28 February 1834 from Strawberry Hill] other end: letters re journey to Swan River 18 August 1833 – 10 March 1834
ACC 6180A/3 See ACC 1044A/2		Original of ACC 1044A/2
ACC 1201A/2 MICROFILM	1 January 1886	Pastoral Lease No. 1/83 (10,000 acres on Hay River)
ACC 1201A/2 MICROFILM	January 1836 - December 1838	Journal recording weather and daily occurrences (very brief) for each month
ACC 1201A/3 MICROFILM	1874-1875, 1889	Letters concerning sale of wool, shipping invoices, etc.
ACC 1201A/4 MICROFILM		Codicil to will of GEE Warburton
ACC 1201A/5 MICROFILM	n.d.	Telegram for transmission to Augustus Gregory, passenger on "Rob Roy"
		LETTERBOOKS
ACC 2337A/8 OSM		Front cover titled, "Albany King George Sound. Historical Notes 1826-1876", in gold lettering plus in white handwriting, "Strawberry Hill Sir Richard Spencer. RN. Letters".
		Front pages Index pp1-263 Transcripts of sundry correspondence taken from Sir Richard's personal memoranda journal kept by him. pp264-287 Headed "Strawberry Hill Log Book kept by MAS", 1836-1853 pp288-291 Blank pp292-320 Letters addressed to Sir Richard, 1835-1839 (pasted into journal) pp321-323 Journal article from "Turner's" dated May 1937 Inside back cover Recycled envelope containing a copy of "Journal and Proceedings", Volume 6-Part 1, published by The Western Australian Historical Society (Inc), 1962, with an article on page 23 written by Robert Stephens
		The pasted letters (pp 292-320) are as follows:
	June 27 1835	To Sir Richard Spencer, from Curtis A. Eastmure, Master of the barque "Patriot", concerning having a Pilot to convey vessels safely into Princess Royal Harbour.
	6th August 1835	To Sir Richard Spencer from I. Sherratt, Government Auctioneer re: Public Sale.
	6th August 1835	To Sir Richard Spencer from I. Sherratt Government Auctioneer re: Refusal of services asked for.
	10th August 1835	To Government Resident Albany from I. Sherratt, Government Auctioneer re: Division of land for lease.
	10 August 1835	To Government Resident Albany from I. Sherratt, Government Auctioneer re: Surveying of Allotments for immediate start of building.

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	14th August 1835	To Sir Richard Spencer from David Boyter Surgeon on the transport ship "Hero" re: Completion of repairs.
	19th August 1835	General notice from Peter Belches and Patrick Taylor re: Sir Spencer being charged by Mr I. Sherratt for unmanly behaviour.
	24th February 1834	To Government Resident Albany from Peter Brown Colonial Secretary re: Census of the inhabitants of Albany.
	15th September 1835	To Government Resident Albany from H.M. Ommanney re: a letter from Mr Sherratt concerning a description of the boundaries of his Allotment.
	14 September 1835	To Mr Ommanney from I. Sherratt re: an alleged loss of boundaries due to the remarking of land.
	14 September 1835	To I. Sherratt from H.M. Ommanney re: Boundaries of Ommanney's allotment.
	25 June	General Notice from G. M. Cheyne Government Auctioneer re: Sale of Government House Allotments 49, 50 and 52.
	9 March 1836	To Sir Richard Spencer from P. Belches re: Purchase of land.
	9 March 1836	To Sir Richard Spencer from P Belches re: Occupation of land in the Takdurrup Valley.
	6 August 1836	To Sir Richard Spencer from George Cheyne re: marking out of an allotment on Mount Clarence.
	6 February 1836	To Government Resident Albany from Peter Brown Colonial Secretary's Office re: alteration of contract with Cooke and Knight.
	25 June	General Notice from G. M. Cheyne Government Auctioneer re: Sale of Government House Allotments 49, 50 and 52.
	9 March 1836	To Sir Richard Spencer from P. Belches re: Purchase of land.
	9 March 1836	To Sir Richard Spencer from P Belches re: Occupation of land in the Takdurrup Valley.
	6 August 1836	To Sir Richard Spencer from George Cheyne re: marking out of an allotment on Mount Clarence.
	6 February 1836	To Government Resident Albany from Peter Brown Colonial Secretary's Office re: alteration of contract with Cooke and Knight.
	18 October 1837	To P. Brown Colonial Secretary from George Cheyne re: failure of Governor to put up for Public competition land which Mr Sherratt proposes to build a lime kiln.
	9 December 1837	To P. Brown Colonial Secretary from George Cheyne re: irregularities of port regulations.
	9 February 1838	To I. Sherratt from P. Brown Colonial Secretary re: the opening of the Public Store to the inhabitants.
	9 February 1838	To I. Sherratt from P. Brown Colonial Secretary re: flour and corn not included in reduced sale of freightage. Marked No. 21
	9 February 1838	To I. L. Morley from P. Brown Colonial Secretary re: vacancy of office to be filled by P. Belches leaving. Marked No. 22
	9 February 1838	To I. L. Morley from P. Brown Colonial Secretary re: extension of lease. Marked No. 23
	9 February 1838	To P. Belches from P. Brown Colonial Secretary re: failure to send several reports required on the arrival of the Barque "Mary". Marked No. 32
	9 February 1838	To P. Belches from P. Brown Colonial Secretary re: the report about the arrival of the Barque "Portland" was void of all information required.

REQUEST THIS NUMBER	DATE RANGE	DESCRIPTION
	9 February 1838	To George Cheyne from P. Brown Colonial Secretary re: forwarding of Government letters on the "Regia" and the "Champion".
	9 February 1838	Government Notice from P. Brown Colonial Secretary re: transmission of applications without previous communication.
	18 May 1838	To Sir Richard Spencer from F. Harding Commander of "Pelorus" re: appointment of a pilot for Princess Royal Harbour.
		General Notice from Sir Richard Spencer, Patrick Taylor and W. H. Drake re: appointment of James Dunnas Constable.
	27 July 1838	General Notice from Sir Richard Spencer, W. H. Drake re: the escape of David McIntyre from the Albany jail.
	4 August 1838	To Government Resident Albany from P. Brown Colonial Secretary re: overcharge of freightage for the schooner "Champion".
	1 February 1839	To Sir Richard Spencer from W. H. Drake Justice of Peace re: punishment of natives.
	2 February 1839	Governors command from P. Brown Colonial Secretary re: reply to letter.
	19 June 1839	To Government Resident Albany from A. Hillman Surveyor re: reply to letter concerning neglect of duty.
		To Sir Richard Spencer on "Monday morning" from P. Belches re: search for natives.
	13 February 1839	To H. I. Spencer contractor on from W. H. Drake re: reply to request for troops refusing assistance.
	4 March 1839	To H. I. Spencer from W. H. Drake re: forwarding of correspondence taken place between Spencer and the Governor.
		Public Notice to Sir Richard Spencer from W. H. Drake re: building of a military station for the protection of farmers.
	20 October 1838	To Sir Richard Spencer from W. G. Australia re: establishment of religion.
	18 November 1837	From Albany King Georges Sound. Acknowledgement of receipt of letter from Senior Magistrate re advice sought concerning the parties who had infringed the Port regulations and not for his authority to act as Harbour Master.
		PHOTOCOPIES OF PAPERS FROM THE PUBLIC RECORDS OFFICE IN THE UNITED KINGDOM
ACC 9423A OSM		Includes list of papers from the National Archives (PRO) relating to the naval service (1793-1817) of Captain Sir Richard Spencer and covers his court martial, papers relating to lieutenant's examination, his commission, his appointment as Government Resident at Albany, Western Australia, reports on the progress of Albany, correspondence relating to request regarding medical treatment and requests for a grant of land. Also, includes his last will and testament.
Pictorial collection		PHOTOGRAPHS

REQUEST THIS NUMBER	DATE RANGE	DESCRIPTION
2603B 2602B 2609B		Mrs CL Van Zuilecom, Portrait Capt CL Van Zuilecom Miss Van Zuilecom (? Caroline)
2606B 2604B 2605B 2608B		Miss Blanche Josephine Van Zuilecom 1912 (b 18.10.1877) Mr Frederick Lewis Van Zuilecom Mr Cecil Van Zuilecom (baptized 12.12.1875) Photo of Albany showing Mt Clarence Edith Austace. Photo on occasion of her wedding to Cecil John Van Zuilecom c.1907
2607B		

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