

DUCANE, EDMUND FREDERICK

Edmund Ducane was born on 23 March 1830 at Colchester, UK. After a grammar school education he passed the examination for entrance to the Royal Military Academy at Woolwich. On passing out in 1848 he received a commission as second lieutenant in the Royal Engineers. In 1850 he was appointed assistant superintendent of the foreign side of the Great Exhibition of 1851. A request from the Comptroller General of Convicts in Western Australia for Royal Engineers to do plans for prison buildings saw the arrival in December 1851 of Lieutenants DuCane and Wray with a party of 65 Sappers and Miners. Following an expedition to the Champion Bay area with the Governor in January 1852 DuCane was appointed in charge of the Eastern Districts, York and Toodyay and took up residence at Guildford. "Royal Engineer" by Alexandra Hasluck, published in 1973 by Angus and Robertson, details the work he undertook in the position, his work as a noted artist and his further career on his return to England in February 1856 with his wife Mary Dorothea, nee Molloy who he had married in July 1855. He died in June 1903 as Sir Edmund Ducane, Major-General (retired).

PRIVATE ARCHIVES MANUSCRIPT NOTE (MN 2893 Acc: 909A, 1127A, 8187A)

| SUMMARY OF CLASSES | |
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| CORRESPONDENCE TESTIMONIALS | |

| Acc. No. | DESCRIPTION |
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| | CORRESPONDENCE |

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| 909A | Two letters to his family in England from Guildford (1852, 1854) and one from Fremantle (1856) describing general activities; includes drawing of his dwelling |
| 1127A | 1897 Letter to his sister-in-law, Mrs. W. Richardson, Bunbury. |
| 8187A/1 | September 1851 off Ramsgate on the Anna Robertson. To his mother on departure from England to Swan River Colony. Photocopy |
| 8187A/2 | 30 September 1851 off Cape Verde Island. To his mother giving frank accounts of his fellow passengers who included the Right Reverend Dr. Brady and Colonial Secretary W. A. Sandford. Describes shipboard life and incidents. Photocopy |
| 8187A/3 | 19 December 1851 The Roads, Fremantle. To his mother while vessel held in (Whooping Cough) quarantine. Drawing of shore at Fremantle from the vessel. Photocopy |
| 8187A/4 | 20 February 1852, Guildford. To his brother Richard, Ma & everybody. To the North with the Governor by Colonial Schooner to examine the anchorage at Champion Bay and the possibility of implanting a convict station there. Photocopy |
| 8187A/5 | 18 April 1852, Guildford. Describes situation and the house he is building. Photocopy and part typescript. Drawing of house plans. Photocopy |
| 8187A/6 | 5 July 1852, Guildford. Tour of district, the inns are such dirty pothouses, interest in |

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| | indigenous plants and wildflowers, road making and jail building. Photocopy |
| 8187A/7 | 12 September 1852, Guildford. Wreck of the 'Eglinton' and recovery of £15,000, appointed a Visiting Magistrate of Convict Stations. Writes of his investments in the Colony. Photocopy |
| 8187A/8 | 1 March 1853, Guildford. To Arthur. Rumours of cessation of transportation, social activities lead to a commission on his brother Arthur to send out new clothes, the Henderson home at Fremantle being a centre of attraction. Photocopy |
| 8187A/9 | 29 May 1853, Guildford. To Arthur. Bridge over the Swan progressing, proceeding with road through the Darling Range to Toodyay. Suggests specific types of books to be sent out to be given to a 'new school established here'. Photocopy |
| 8187A/10 | 3 July 1853, Guildford. To Arthur. Elected a member of the Junior United Service Club, talk of threat of famine due to lack of flour. Photocopy |
| 8187A/11 | 21 August 1853, Guildford. To Dick. Doubts about the continuation of transportation causing concern on economic grounds. Photocopy |
| 8187A/12 | 15 December 1853, Guildford. To Arthur. News arrives that transportation was to be continued. Describes his comfortable house. 'He (the Governor) is very jealous at my having a house'. Photocopy |
| 8187A/13 | 15 October 1854, Guildford. To Arthur. Suggestion that he has met his future wife. Detailed drawing of his house and garden. Photocopy |
| 8187A/14 | n.d. To a brother. Native men and women and religion. Incomplete, final two pages only. Photocopy |
| 8187A/15 | 7 January 1856, Fremantle. To Arthur. Preparations for departure to England. Photocopy |
| | TESTIMONIALS |
| 8187A/16 | 23 February 1856, Government House, Perth. Testimonial from Governor Kennedy as to the good conduct of Lieut. Ducane in all his duties in the Colony. n.d. Extract from Captain Henderson's letter to Sir John Burgoyne, 'Messrs Wray, Ducane & Crossman 'most creditable to the Corps'. Photocopy |

Holdings = 7 cm.

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