

CASE FAMILY COLLECTION

MS 20 011

This collection contains two diaries written by Ellen Case, wife of Rev. Philip Henry Case, describing their life in the service of the Anglican church from 1888-1894, as well as a volume containing copies of her letters home. The note books are in a fragile condition; they have been transcribed by her grandson, John James Case, who deposited the collection in Cory Library in December 2003, and the transcription in 2014.

There are also six volumes of diaries (1944-1966) and a volume of poetry by her daughter, Nora Noel Case, born 27 December 1886. For a time Nora lived with her older brother Philip George Case, and her diaries describe their life on various farms, and subsequently as store keepers, in the Lower Albany area. She had trained as a school teacher. Her earlier diaries contain interesting details of day to day living and farming, and the hard physical work it entailed. Her later diaries describe social contacts in Barkly East, Bushman's River Mouth and Queenstown, and as she was meticulous about recording weather, give an excellent overview of rainfall patterns at the time.

1. A folder containing:

Family tree of Case family of Norfolk, compiled by John Case in 2003.

Certified copy of the birth of Philip Henry Case (born 1 April 1856)

Certified copy of the birth of Ellen Lambden (born 18 March 1863)

Photocopy of photograph of Philip Henry Case, and obituary of same.

Spiral bound transcript of the diaries and letters of Ellen Case 1888-9, 1892-94

2. Note book, 18 x 23 cm, 'Diary from leaving England Nov. 2nd 1888 for Kaffraria. Ellen Case'. The diary covers the journey from England to South Africa, their time at St Cuthbert's Mission, Tsolo, and ends as they relocate to Maclear.
3. Note book, 18 x 23 cm, 'Fort Peddie. Diary. Grahamstown – S. Africa.' The diary recalls (briefly) the journey from Southampton to Port Elizabeth in October 1892 and a few days in Grahamstown before describing nearly a year in Peddie. A few notes at the end of the note book mainly concerning domestic help, are not transcribed.
4. Note book, 18 x 23 cm, very fragile, containing copies of letters home to her mother, Charlotte Lambden and sister Maude, by Ellen Case while at St Cuthbert's mission. November 1888 – March 1889.
5. Note book, 18 x 23 cm, starting with 14 pages of notes on Chaucer, Piers Plowman, drama from Lyly to Ford, Classification notes and Lyric poetry of the 17th Century, before commencing '1944, June 27. The Glen, Bathurst Rail. Introductory.' There is a 10 page hiatus after 22 Jan. 1946 containing an essay 'Improvements I would like to see in our library', before the diary continues on 23 Jan. 1946. The volume ends on

30 April 1946. A sepia photograph, 12 x 9 cm, is slipped inside the back cover. 'W.F. Case' appears on the back of the photo, which shows an outdoor tea table with a large group of children and adults lined up next to it – 27 in all.

6. Note book, 18 x 23 cm, starting with 6 pages of newspaper clippings of maps of various WW II battle fields, such as Libya, East Africa, Syria, etc. before commencing 'Diary – May 5th 1946.' Entries are sporadic, and end in October 1948.
7. Note book, 13 x 21 cm, 'NC Day Book Dec. 1949'. Diary entries start in December 1949 at 'Narraway', and end on 7 August 1953 with the death of Nora's brother, Phil.
8. Note book, 13 x 20 cm, 'Diary of N.N. Case. 68 Beaufort St. Begun Sep.25 1953. Ended June 19th 1957.' There are 2 pages of pen sketches, and recipes, poems etc. after the diary entries. A black and white photograph (15 x 11 cm) of a vintage car with the number plate CH-111 is inserted between the pages.
9. Manuscript book, 16 x 20 cm, 'Diary begun Sep. 9th 1957. Bushmans River Mouth.' Entries end in July 1963, by which time Miss Case was living in Madeira House, Queenstown. Recipes, knitting patterns, quotations etc. are noted down, and some loose letters are included, including one from her brother Herbert describing a family trip to the Kruger National Park in October 1958.
10. Note book, 18 x 22 cm, 'Diary of Nora Case. This book was given by Philip G. Case'. 5 pages of 1966 diary entries, and a few poems. Loose inserts include maps of Rhodesia and the north eastern Transvaal, as well as 4 knitting patterns for boys aged 2-3.
11. Green baize covered note book, 19 x 26 cm, 'Thoughts. NC. With the author's compliments & best wishes for Christmas 1923.' Contains 12 hand printed poems.